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**BEST FOR JOBS**

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**WANTED**

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☐ Controller.....50K

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SECTIONS 3 AND 4

Tory sceptics hail warning of split

## Euro fury as Rifkind joins EMU battle

By Philip Webster, Political Editor, and Charles Bremner

BRITAIN'S relations with the European Union were thrown into fresh turmoil yesterday after Europe's leaders responded sharply to a warning from Malcolm Rifkind that the single currency would split the Continent in two.

The Foreign Secretary was praised by leading Conservative Euro-sceptics for stating that the divided European Union that would be created by monetary union was not the aim of its founding fathers.

Mr Rifkind was seen by influential Tories as having strengthened his credentials as a potential future Tory leader by delivering perhaps the strongest signal so far of Cabinet disengagement with the idea of British participation in a single currency.

That it came from a Foreign Secretary, traditionally a post whose incumbent has been enthusiastic about Europe, intensified the satisfaction of the sceptics last night. John Redwood voiced delight at Mr Rifkind's words, which were delivered in a speech in Zurich to mark the fiftieth anniversary of Churchill's address on the future of Europe. Currency union was a "disaster waiting to happen", said Mr Redwood, and Britain was right to warn of its dangers.

Sir Michael Spicer, another leading Euro-sceptic, said Mr Rifkind's warning that a single currency would be bad for Europe was "excellent and the tougher we are on that the better".

David Heathcoat-Amory, who resigned as Paymaster General in July to campaign

against Britain's entry into a single currency, said: "Mr Rifkind appears to be responding to the clear mood of the country, and recognises that the divisions will be irreparable. But we need now to take practical steps as a matter of urgency, and take the decision not to enter monetary union."

Mr Rifkind emphasised the growing sense of disillusionment towards the EU across Europe. "We should not proceed down a path of integration faster or further than our people are prepared to go," he said. "Those who neglect this maxim fall into the trap of seeing Europe in terms of a state of thinking that we can better achieve our common goals simply by projecting the aspirations and ambitions of individual nations on to an EU canvas."

If monetary union went ahead, around half the existing members and virtually all of the 12 countries seeking membership would be unable to meet the criteria to join the single currency. "Such a divided European Union was not what the founding fathers had in mind," he said. "We will need to give much greater consideration to its implications than has, until now, been conceded."

Britain had "an alternative vision" for Europe as a partnership of nations. "It is a vision based on choosing carefully the stepping stones towards closer co-operation; not jumping blindly towards ever greater integration, flailing for footholds that may prove pre-

carious or illusory." Mr Rifkind's sceptical views on the single currency were clear when John Major appointed him Foreign Secretary to replace Douglas Hurd.

Even though he has been traditionally associated with the centre-left of the party, his stand on monetary union will increase his attractiveness to the right if a compromise candidate is sought during a leadership election. Another is Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary.

But Mr Rifkind upset European politicians already braced for Britain to pull back from the Florence agreement that ended the beef war.

Jacques Santer, the Commission President, told Euro MPs that the single currency "now has to be seen to be inevitable" and would emerge on target on January 1, 1999. "We are on the way to an unprecedented success in the history of European integration, indeed in the history of Europe itself." But he attacked Britain and other states, which he accused of slowing down the moves.

Mr Santer used a "State of the Union" address to the European Parliament to voice the growing alarm felt in Brussels over the near stagnant state of negotiations to review the Maastricht treaty. His thinking was backed by John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, whose country is one of the most Euro-enthusiastic in the Union.

John Redwood, page 16  
Leading article, page 17



Diana, Princess of Wales, arriving in Athens with Susie Kasseem and Sister Lizzie

## Diana's secret flight to funeral

By Alan Hamilton

DIANA, Princess of Wales slipped out of Britain yesterday to attend the funeral in Greece of a man she had befriended during a series of private visits to sick and dying patients in a London hospital.

The Princess, dressed in black, attended the burial yesterday afternoon of Yannis Kaliviotis, 27, a law graduate, at a church in Limni on the island of Evvoia, near Athens. She left RAF

Northolt at 7.30am on a private jet, with her office at Kensington Palace insisting that she was going on a private holiday.

She was accompanied by Susie Kasseem, a close friend who has associations with the Royal Brompton and who was largely responsible for introducing the Princess to the hospital and the work of Dr Magdi Yacoub, the heart surgeon, whose patient Mr Kaliviotis was. The party also included Sister "Lizzie" Elizabeth, a

Continued on page 2, col 7

## Cook tribute seeks to unite Labour left behind Blair

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

TONY BLAIR will be given an important boost today when Robin Cook, leader of the Labour left, delivers a warm tribute to his leadership and calls on the party to fall in behind him.

The move, clearly designed to steady party nerves ahead of what may be a difficult conference this month, comes amid rumblings among unions and the left about Mr Blair's style and long-term intentions.

With all parties gearing up for the autumn political battle, Mr Blair yesterday went on the offensive, challenging John Major to a television debate about which party occupies the high moral ground in Britain.

Tonight, at a forum in London organised by *The Times* and *Go*, he will answer questions about his vision for Britain and current party developments.

The Shadow Foreign Secretary will be making a speech in Leeds about restoring Britain's international influence.

But, after the turmoil at the end of the TUC conference last week over Labour's union links and the call by a leading moderniser to drop the word "socialism" from party vocabulary, Mr Cook has decided to include a passage backing the direction in which Mr Blair is taking the party.

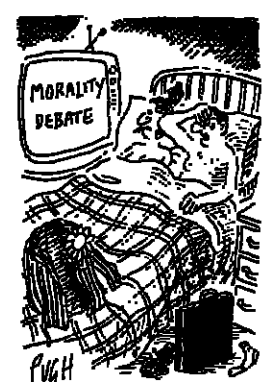
It will be regarded as of considerable significance by the leadership. Mr Cook, initially sceptical about Mr Blair's decision to change Clause 4, became a committed convert to the idea and played an influential role in pushing it through the party.

Today's intervention, coming after complaints from activists that Mr Blair is pushing the party too fast, will be seen in the same light. The Labour leader, after a trouble-

free conference last year, faces possible defeats on pensions, the minimum wage, child benefit and defence spending.

But Mr Cook will call on the party to lift its sights to leaving behind the "barren and ultimately futile land of Opposition". He will say Labour values are eternal but must be applied in new ways to changing circumstances. He will argue that because Labour under Mr Blair has had the courage to face up to change it has earned people's trust.

Mr Blair's challenge to Mr



"Oh hell, I promised to tape this for my wife"

Major came after the Prime Minister, in a BBC interview yesterday morning, argued the moral case for tax cuts, a theme that he expanded in a speech last night.

But Mr Major was non-committal about entering a debate with Mr Blair, saying that he would not participate in soundbite debates or "a simple trivial, televised spectacular".

Mr Blair went on lunchtime BBC radio to insist that morality was about education, the homeless and the unemployed rather than taxation.

## Ambulances to get eight-minute target

By Valerie Elliott, Whitehall Editor

PROPOSALS for a two-tier ambulance service requiring crews to respond to priority calls within eight minutes could save 3,200 lives a year.

Heart attack victims and serious road casualties under two involved in accidents. But the response time has been drawn up with a particular view to heart attack victims. Doctors have advised the Department of Health that the maximum possible time for electric shock or defibrillator treatment to be effective is eight minutes.

Mr Dorrell wants the faster response times to be introduced by ambulance services nationwide next year. There have already been pilot schemes in several areas. Targets for less urgent 999 calls will continue to be 14 minutes in urban areas and 19 minutes in the country.

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also apply to those who are unconscious or with serious breathing difficulties, those having serious allergic reactions, pregnant women with severe bleeding, and children under two involved in accidents.

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No 10 opens doors, page 9

## South Korea on alert after submariners are killed

By Robert Whyment in Tokyo and our foreign staff

SOUTH Korea's navy and air force were on full alert last night after 11 North Koreans were found dead during what appeared to be a bungled infiltration operation. A twelfth man was arrested and a hunt was under way for others.

The South Korean Defence Ministry said 20 infiltrators were thought to have landed near the east coast town of Kangnung yesterday when their submarine hit a rock a few yards offshore.

Eleven bodies were later found in nearby mountains, possibly killed by their leader, who then committed suicide. "One of the dead infiltrators had a gun on him and we think he killed himself after shooting the others," a Defence Ministry spokesman said. Yesterday there were reports of an exchange of

gunfire between South Korean forces and two infiltrators, who fled afterwards.

A twelfth man who was captured identified himself as Lee Kwan Su, 31, and said 20 people had been in the submarine. They were put ashore yesterday when the 325-tonne vessel broke down just off the beach. He told interrogators that the submarine drifted into South Korean waters



after developing engine trouble, television news reports said.

However, there was also speculation that the submarine could have been sent to pick up an agent or drop spies. There were signs that the men had fled in panic from the submarine, with weapons and ammunition abandoned in the vessel and personal belongings scattered along a road.

Soldiers searching the submarine found a piece of paper with the slogan: "We will accomplish the mission without fail," as well as weapons, ammunition and grenades.

Since the Korean War ended in 1953, North Korea has regularly infiltrated spies and launched commando raids against the south. The two states have still not signed a peace treaty.

Photograph, page 22

## Mob kills Briton in Croatia

By Eve-Anne Prentice

A BRITISH soldier serving with Nato-led forces in Bosnia has died after being set upon by a Croatian mob wielding baseball bats and iron bars.

Private Simon Jeans, 25, who was married with a 20-month-old son and serving with the Implementation Force in Sarajevo, had just run a charity marathon in Split to raise money for children made homeless by war in the former Yugoslavia.

Private Jeans, who was from Basingstoke, Hampshire, was celebrating on Sunday with four other soldiers after completing the run when they were asked to leave a bar and attacked by a crowd of about 30 locals. He suffered a fractured skull and died later at Frimley Park military hospital in Surrey.

Izethbegovic wins, page 10

## Fizz taken out of life for drinkers with no bottle for pop

By Nigel Hawkes, Science Editor

PARTIES may soon go with a phut, if a revolutionary new champagne cork catches on.

The cork is designed to remove the risk and most of the excitement from opening a bottle of champagne. Anxious bystanders may breathe easy as a gentle whisper of escaping gas replaces the volcanic eruption of a traditional

cork. The new cork looks just like an ordinary one, reports *New Scientist*, save for a tab on the side. When tugged this pulls a tiny peg inside the cork upwards, reducing the girth of the cork inside the bottle.

At the same time, a hole opens in the base of the cork's mushroom-shaped top, releasing gas from the neck of the bottle. The wire brace which holds the cork in place can then be removed and the deflated cork easily pulled.

"Many of our clients are women and old folk who enjoy champagne but find the opening of the bottle a daunting experience," says Philippe Bienvenue, sales director of Caudier, a champagne house which is giving the new cork a trial.

A secondary advantage is that the cork can be replaced in the bottle, unlike a traditional one. Its inventor, Jacques Pitou, says that the bottle can still be popped in the usual way — if the

tab is left alone the cork functions like a normal champagne cork.

Jane MacQuitty, *the Times* wine correspondent, was sceptical that the new design would catch on. "The velocity of a champagne cork can be impressive," she says. "It can take your eye out. But the producers would have to be completely certain the new design would work, and wouldn't just create new problems. I should think it would also be quite expensive."

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# To be honest, John, please spare us the moralising

JOHN MAJOR has a split political personality. The more attractive side is Honest John, the competent and proven manager, coping in a decent and commonsense way with all the intractable problems of Britain and the world. The man you can trust.

The less appealing side is the partisan politician — the permanent Young Conservative — who is constantly expressing outrage about his opponents and regarding as unfair any criticism of him and the Government. The former is more appealing for those of us who like their politicians with a touch of self-

doubt, while the latter appeals more to the committed. Both sides — the reasonable and the prickly — were in evidence yesterday in Mr Major's *Today* programme interview and in his *Spectator* lecture. Mr Major was wrong to invoke morality in the debate over the size of government.

Of course, if you are talking about a state that was so dominant and pervasive as the old East European regimes, or as North Korea still is, it is a moral issue since basic human freedoms are involved. But, as Mr Major admitted, Britain is now in the middle of the international range of public

## RIDDELL ON POLITICS

spending. It is nonsense to pretend that the choice between public spending at just over 40 per cent of national income or nearer 35 per cent is about morality rather than efficiency and equality. It is anyway a bit rich for the Tories to talk about morality given the Government's own patchy record on public spending in the early 1990s.

Mr Major offered a solid defence of what the Government has done in social security, privatisation and deregulation. Private ownership has

transformed standards in former state industries. Ahead of today's *Citizen's Charter* White Paper, he fairly pointed to changes in the culture of public services and their responsiveness to consumers. Labour has been catching up with these changes.

The partisan Major always dislikes suggestions that the main parties are closer together than before. The instincts of many Tory and Labour MPs over the size of government certainly differ. But what he fails to acknowledge is how

external constraints are narrowing the differences in what governments can do. After all, Mr Major explicitly rejected the minimalist state and accepted that the state should have responsibility not just for defence and the police, but also for "universal access to a taxpayer-funded health service and to provide every child with the choice of a state-funded education. And other areas are self-evident, such as the welfare safety net."

But, as Kenneth Clarke has repeatedly argued, the acceptance of these commitments makes it hard to reduce public spending much below 40 per

cent. That is why more candid Tory, and now a few Labour, policymakers accept that alternative sources of finance will have to be found if the demand for high quality public services is to be satisfied without raising taxes. That is already occurring in pensions and higher education, but it will have to happen in other areas such as long-term care for the elderly, road tolls and education vouchers. The real debate should be about these issues, and welfare reform. The Tories do have a case. But spare us the moralising.

PETER RIDDELL

# Major takes dig at Blair over moral high ground

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

JOHN MAJOR and Tony Blair last night fought for the "moral high ground" as the Prime Minister defined this as a key battleground in the run-up to the general election.

In a lecture in London last night, Mr Major put the case for tax cuts and a smaller state as he argued that governments should interfere less and allow people to take more responsibility for the money they spent. Seeking to underline a "sharp divide" with Labour, he argued that it was not moral to impose the social chapter, or the minimum wage.

But Mr Blair insisted that morality was about education, the homeless, the unemployed and safer streets, rather than taxation. It was not a question of how much should be spent, but on where it should go. Mr Major claimed that there was a difference between the Tories' instinct to reduce the role of the state and Labour's instinct to expand it. Government should not meddle where it was not needed. "I don't want my personal choices made for me by the State. Nor do most people. Trust the people is an old Conservative battle cry."

"It must be central to our future policies. We aim to regulate less of people's lives. So we aim to tax and spend an even smaller share of what people earn," he added.

Mr Major has been concerned that Mr Blair has repeatedly used the moral argument to boost his own theories and sides admitted the speech was a conscious attempt to redress this. "Moral is a word I usually prefer to leave to the Church but it is apt for what I intend to say," said Mr Major.

"For example, is it moral to take from individuals the right to make personal decisions? I think not. Is it moral to impose obligations on employers like the social chapter and the minimum wage that will cost

jobs and prevent those without jobs from getting them? Again, I think not."

He added: "It is that moral view, just as much as economics, that leads me to the conviction that the state should progressively disengage and do less — but that what it does it should do well."

Mr Major tried to preempt criticism of tax cuts as election bribes and of the Tories as uncaring. "I reject the muddled thinking that says a smaller state must be uncaring. And I reject the thinking that equates big government with benevolent government."

He said that his main objective was still to bring public spending — now at 41 per cent of national wealth — down to below 40 per cent. He also reaffirmed that the Tories intended to abolish capital gains tax and inheritance tax. In an earlier interview, Mr Blair said that he accepted the business of government was a moral issue, but he criticised Mr Major for focusing on tax. Mr Blair said that Britain was spending a large amount on welfare and social failure, but money was not being invested for the future.

"I agree those are moral issues, but the question is whether the Government has had the right approach to them for the past 16 or 17 years. I don't quite know what the word moral adds to the argument," he said. "I certainly believe it is a matter of great public interest as to whether we are spending money on the right things."

Mr Blair said that if the Tories were talking about moral resolve they should concentrate on education, unemployment, homelessness and making the streets safer.

Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, said that people would be "astounded" at the double standards of a Prime Minister who calls for the moral case for low tax yet was responsible for 22 tax rises.



French farmers protesting yesterday over paying for the disposal of dead cows

# Brussels to study forecast that BSE will disappear

By PHILIP WEBSTER, POLITICAL EDITOR

THE European Commission announced last night it was taking a second look at the Oxford study which found that "mad cow" disease would disappear naturally within five years.

The decision, welcomed by Downing Street and Agriculture Ministry officials, means that the Government could be persuaded today to draw back from a new confrontation with Brussels over beef. Ministers had been to announce today that they were abandoning the planned slaughter of 147,000 cows thought to be most at risk from BSE, it having been concluded that there was no chance of the move being endorsed by MPs. The cull was agreed after fears emerged that the human brain disease CJD could be linked to BSE.

Last night's conciliatory move from the Commission is likely to mean a "pause for thought", officials said. Michael Forsyth, the Scottish Secretary, will argue at today's Cabinet committee meeting for a special effort to lift the ban on the export of Scottish beef. Farmers in Scotland feel they are being unfairly treated because many of their herds have no history of BSE.

Informed sources said that the Prime Minister and Douglas Hogg, the Agriculture Minister, now accepted that it would be impossible to get the planned cull through the Commons. Today they will welcome the fact that the Commission is looking again at the scientific evidence and express hope that it will eventually agree that the cull is no longer necessary.

The Commission's change of heart was designed to avoid a confrontational announce-

ment in London today, Franz Fischler, the Commissioner for Agriculture, said that the Oxford study, which sets out a range of options for eradicating BSE, was a "serious" and "constructive" document.

Twenty-four hours earlier he had told Mr Hogg that it made no difference to the terms of the selective slaughter programme agreed with Mr Major at the European summit in Florence in June. Sir Leon Brittan had urged his fellow commissioners to look more closely at the details. The British commissioner said last night: "The Commission is not unsympathetic to Britain's predicament. It considers the Oxford study a constructive and serious piece of work and is anxious to pass it to the experts. The Commission is open-minded on the implications for the extended cull."

Even in the economic debate many of the 150 motions, most of which urge Kenneth Clarke to cut taxes before an election, Europe features with repeated criticism of any moves towards a single currency, which the Chancellor backs.

Many associations for the first time demand outright withdrawal from the EU. Others call for a repatriation of powers from Brussels and opting out from the European Court of Justice. One Tory Euro-sceptic MP said last night: "The activists are the true voice of the Conservative Party which the leadership will ignore at its peril."

The anticipated anger over BSE has not materialised. The rank-and-file turn their fire on the common agricultural policy in the food, farming and fisheries debate.

# Motions from Tory grassroots vent fury at Europe

By ANDREW PIERCE, POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TENSIONS over Europe dominate next month's Tory party conference agenda with the powers of the EU taking over from taxation as the priority issue of the rank-and-file for the first time.

All but a handful of the 200 motions submitted for the foreign affairs debate strongly support the Euro-sceptics in their battles to curb moves towards a federal Europe. Only a minority criticise the Euro-rebels for undermining the Prime Minister, according to the agenda which was published yesterday.

A motion from the Foreign Secretary's Edinburgh Pentlands association says: "This conference wishes to remind the Government that in 1973 the British people voted to join an economic union not a political one." Malcolm Rifkind will be replying to the debate.

Conservative Central Office strategists have deliberately timed the debate for the start of Wednesday's business so that it will not be carried live by BBC Television. Conference managers will attempt to stage-manage the debate by ensuring that the motion chosen is in praise of the Government's handling of foreign issues.

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# Major rules out extra student fee

John Major has ruled out making students pay private tuition fees for higher education. University vice-chancellors are expected to propose a national fee system and much larger loans at their annual conference in Sheffield today. But Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, said yesterday that she expected the Government to continue paying fees for full-time courses and her comments are believed to reflect the unshakeable view of the Prime Minister.

It is a clear signal to Sir Ron Dearing's committee of inquiry into the future of higher education. Labour leaders have also ruled out charging for tuition. A spokesman for the Committee of Vice-Chancellors and Principals said: "Further expansion of higher education with quality cannot be achieved by Government subsidy alone."

# Gold inquiry welcomed

Malcolm Rifkind yesterday welcomed the establishment by Switzerland of an official inquiry into its financial dealings with the Nazis during the Second World War. The Foreign Secretary said the gold transfers were a matter of considerable international interest. Officials in London denied that Britain planned to hand the 5,000kg of gold in the Bank of England over to Holocaust victims or their families instead of claimant governments.

# McDonald's pulls out

Plans by Michael Portillo's constituency party to sell its offices in north London to McDonald's for a drive-through burger restaurant collapsed last night after the fast-food chain pulled out of the deal, citing "commercial reasons". The Defence Secretary had been criticised by constituents in Enfield Southgate after he refused to take sides in the disputed development. McDonald's said it would withdraw a planning application which had gone to appeal.

# Training for judges

Senior judges as well as 30,000 magistrates are to undergo training as part of an expanded programme outlined by the Judicial Studies Board yesterday. The board plans to extend its training programme, which may include racial and "human awareness" courses, beyond circuit and district judges to include the 96 High Court judges. Lord Justice Henry, board chairman, said that not enough had been done in the training of the High Court judiciary.

# Asda chief on Tory list

Archie Norman, the millionaire head of the Asda supermarket chain, has reached the shortlist of contenders seeking selection as the Tory candidate for Tunbridge Wells. The winner will be chosen tonight from Mr Norman, 42, Sarah Whitehouse, a barrister and Professor Philip Treleven, a former Tory Euro-seat candidate. □ Roy Thomson, Tory MP for Bromsgrove, said last night that he will not seek reselection at the general election.

# Church fights sex abuse

The Roman Catholic Church in Scotland is to make big changes in the way it deals with child sex abuse by priests. Church leaders said there would be "no cover-ups", any allegations being immediately referred to police and social services. Each of the eight dioceses will have one or two childcare officers whose telephone numbers will be widely publicised. An independent co-ordinator will have authority to contact outside agencies without consulting the Church.

# Breakout trial halted

The trial of six men accused of breaking out of Whitmore prison in Cambridgeshire two years ago was halted yesterday. Discharging the jury at Woolwich Crown Court, southeast London, Judge Maurice Kay said he had made the decision for "legal reasons". Peter Sherry, 31, Liam O'Duibhir, 34, Liam McCotter, 33, Gilbert McNamee, 36, Paul Magee, 48, and Andrew Russell, 34, all deny breaking out of prison and possessing a firearm.

# Birds face tide of change

Migrating birds could be threatened by rising sea levels which will flood the estuaries on which they depend, a report claims. Millions of migrating waders and wildfowl use British estuaries to rest and feed on their way to and from northern breeding grounds. The Solway Firth and the Wash are among 15 sites around the world identified as being under threat in the report released in Britain yesterday by the World Wide Fund for Nature.

# Princess

Continued from page 1  
nun who regularly works at the hospital among the terminally ill.

When she arrived on Evvoia, the Princess visited the parents of Mr Kaliviotis and then attended the funeral service at the village church.

Friends of the Princess said last night that she had first met Mr Kaliviotis, who died of cystic fibrosis, nearly two years ago while he was a patient at the Royal Brompton Hospital in southwest London. Officials of the Royal Brompton last night refused to confirm that the Princess had met Mr Kaliviotis there. "We operate an open visiting policy, and Diana has from time to time paid private visits to friends receiving treatment here. The Princess is always most welcome," a spokeswoman said.

The purpose of the Princess's journey was disclosed yesterday by the Athens newspaper *Eleftheros Typos*, which reported that Mr Kaliviotis had come to England for surgery, and the Princess had become interested in him. "When he returned to Greece she asked about his health, so when he lost his life she decided to come to the funeral," the newspaper said.

Five years ago the Princess flew from Balmoral to attend the funeral of Adrian Ward-Jackson, a former governor of the Royal Ballet, who died of AIDS, aged 41. She had visited him six times in hospital during his final illness; before his death Mr Ward-Jackson had drawn up an invitation list for his own funeral, and had included the Princess.

# Rethink on 'bad hair' campaign

By RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Church of England is to review its advertising strategy after widespread criticism of the "bad hair day" Christmas campaign.

Two dioceses have banned the £22,000 campaign, condemning it as destructive and unintelligible. Church leaders are concerned that the Churches Advertising Network, which dreamt up the posters, is not accountable to the General Synod or any archbishop.

The Lichfield and Winchester dioceses are to boycott the posters, which feature three kings and have the slogan: "Bad hair day? You're a virgin, you've just given birth and now three kings have shown up. Find out the happy ending at a church near you."

Church leaders are objecting because one of the kings wears a crucifix, even though Christmas occurred 30 years before the Crucifixion. The kings themselves are symbols of Epiphany, which takes place two weeks after Christmas.

In a letter to the Rev Richard Thomas, of the Churches Advertising Network, the Bishop of Winchester, the Right Rev Michael Scott-Joynt, says that the poster had been "inappropriate and unusable". He says colleagues had found it to be "simply crude, ridiculous and unintelligible".

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مكتبة من الاصل

Lucan 'friend' recalls life of crime

# I was the Raffles of 1960s, accused tells Old Bailey

By RICHARD DUCE

A CONVICTED blackmailer accused of organising a £20 million kidnap and murder plot from his prison cell boasted yesterday that he was a modern-day Raffles who had used high-society connections to "liberate" *objets d'art* from the homes of the rich and famous.

Sacheverelle De Houghton happily admitted to an Old Bailey jury a string of past offences while depicting himself as a colourful criminal whose friends had included Lord Lucan and the club owner John Aspinall. But he denied having concocted the kidnapping and killing of a wealthy businessman.

At one stage De Houghton, 56, was asked about an appearance at Southwark Crown Court in 1984 for handling "a superb set" of prints. Turning to Judge Gordon, he said: "As I recall, your lordship was prosecuting on that occasion — when you were a lean and hungry lawyer." The judge replied: "As I recall, you pleaded guilty." De Houghton said: "I have always pleaded guilty because I don't believe in wasting the court's time. I have pleaded not guilty on this occasion because I am innocent."

De Houghton is accused of hatching a plot, while serving a prison sentence for blackmail, to kidnap a "phenomenally wealthy" businessman, known only as G, and to take him to a remote Scottish island. It is alleged that the man would then have been tortured and killed, but not before persuading his office to hand over £20 million.

De Houghton told the court: "My life in crime began when

I came down from Oxford University. I took the Civil Service entrance exams and came in fourteenth nationally. Like a lot of bright young things from Oxford I joined the Foreign Office, which I soon regretted. At the time I was involved with the Lord Lucan and John Aspinall set and got heavily involved in gambling, playing roulette and blackjack, both at Oxford and in London.

"John Aspinall and I opened Crockfords in Mayfair together. Under the influence of

**I would drive around in a Rolls-Royce and liberate *objets d'art* — rather a lot of them**

Lucky Lucan I became a very good poker player. I won a lot of money. Unfortunately I lost a lot too. To my eternal regret I became involved in criminal matters to pay off my gambling debts." Continuing his criminal résumé, De Houghton described himself as a "deb's delight" who had often been invited to aristocratic parties in the early 1960s. "I would pull on a pair of black gloves and liberate the odd piece of jade. I was a sort of Raffles. I would drive around in a Rolls-Royce and liberate *objets d'art*. I liberated rather a lot of them."

He said that from 1963 onwards he was in and out of

prison but, by behaving himself, always got early parole. He described an alleged escape in which he laundered £25 million stolen from a sheikh at Heathrow in 1977. "I managed to keep £250,000 for myself and served two and a half years. £100,000 a year wasn't bad money in 1977."

He claimed that he had used violence only once. That was during a blackmail plot in 1992, for which he is currently in prison, and which the prosecution alleges was the blueprint for his plot against the millionaire.

Explaining that offence, De Houghton said: "I lost £30,000 when the BCCI collapsed. I was setting up a deal of Russian loans and I just lost my sense of balance. I was under a great deal of financial pressure and I just flipped. . . I have felt a great sense of remorse ever since."

The prosecution alleges that De Houghton, serving ten years for the 1992 abduction offence, planned to murder Mr G by having him injected with heroin once the £20 million ransom had been secured. From his cell, De Houghton allegedly negotiated the purchase of a castle on the Hebridean island of Coll, where the businessman was to have been held.

The plot is said to have been uncovered after Everton Morrison, his alleged accomplice, approached an undercover policeman while searching for men to carry out the kidnap.

De Houghton denies conspiring with Mr Morrison to kidnap and murder. He also denies inciting Mr Morrison to kidnap and murder. The trial continues.



RONA HANSON

## Queen's bodyguard faces sack for assault on driver

By MICHAEL HORNSWELL

THE career of one of the Queen's police bodyguards lay in ruins last night after a jury convicted him of a "road rage" assault on a woman.

PC Stephen Dunsdon, 49, a member of Scotland Yard's Royalty and Diplomatic Protection Squad since 1983, will face a disciplinary board and dismissal from the force. His ten-minute fit of uncontrolled anger on a London street after a minor collision between two cars could also lead to freezing of the pension he was due to draw next year after 25 years' service.

The officer, who injured Carolyn Verguson, 22, when he flung open his car door and struck her as she tapped on his window to ask his name and number, was convicted of assault after a three-day trial at Southwark Crown Court.

Dunsdon, of New Ash Green, Kent, described in court as the "last line of defence" for the Royal Family, carried out armed corridor patrols outside royal bedrooms, including the Queen's, at the three London palaces. In 1983 he received a commendation when he disarmed a deranged man who had attacked a member of the royal household with a knife outside the gates of Buckingham Palace.

Judge Butler, QC, told Dunsdon that he had escaped a jail sentence by a "hair's breadth". But he said: "This assault will lead to your dismissal from the police force and as a consequence large financial loss." The judge ordered him to pay £500 compensation to his victim.

The officer was being driven to Buckingham Palace by his brother, PC Nicholas Dunsdon, when their 2CV Citroen gave a glancing blow to a Kia car containing three postal workers in The Highway, east London.



Richard: told friends he would take drugs

## Head boy died using drugs in nightclub

By STEPHEN FARRELL

A SCHOOL head boy died four days after he apparently experimented with drugs for the first time, despite pleas from friends not to take the risk.

Detectives believe that Richard Mulgrew, 17, may have taken Ecstasy after disappearing for 20 minutes during a rave at Blondz nightclub in Plymouth. Friends saw the A-level student and promising sculptor emerge from the lavatories delirious and disoriented at midnight on Friday.

He collapsed soon afterwards and was taken to hospital, where his liver and kidneys failed. He died on Tuesday morning in an ambulance on his way to a liver transplant operation at King's College Hospital in London.

Three friends at Stoke Damerel Community College in Plymouth told police that, while queuing for the rave, the athletic, powerfully built student told them that he intended to try amphetamines on his first night out for two and a half months.

Detective Inspector Norman Brown, of Devon and Cornwall Police, said: "From our inquiries it is clear Richard was not a drug user. It looks as if this is a case of someone experimenting for the first time. His friends have told me they spoke about recent drug deaths and, in particular, about the case of Leah Betts and told him it was silly to try drugs. But obviously he did not listen."

It is unclear if Richard took Ecstasy or amphetamines but, as an inexperienced user, he would not have known the difference, Mr Brown said. A week earlier a girl was arrested at the same nightclub with 150 Ecstasy tablets.

Richard's mother, Teresa, 36, said she believed that dealers at the club had forced him to take drugs or had spiked his drinks.

## Bomb sent to pop star

The pop star Bjork said yesterday that she feared for the safety of her nine-year-old son after police intercepted an acid bomb addressed to her. Scotland Yard's Anti-Terrorist Branch and the Royal Mail were alerted to the device by American police after a fan in Florida videotaped himself making the bomb and then committed suicide. American police

said that the bomb could have killed. Speaking outside her home in west London, Bjork, 30, said: "I'm just very sad that a man has done that. I make music, but people shouldn't take me too literally

and get involved in my personal life." Asked if she would be increasing her security, the Icelandic singer said she was more concerned for her son, Sindri, than for herself. Police near Miami found the body of Ricardo Lopez this week with a camera pointed at it. The tape inside recorded his suicide with the Bjork song *I Miss You* in the background.

# Ancient galaxies promise endless future

By NIGEL HAWKES  
SCIENCE EDITOR

GALAXIES formed much earlier than previously supposed, astronomers at Durham University have discovered. By studying with three telescopes the most distant galaxies, they conclude that galaxy formation took place when the universe was about 20 to 30 per cent of its present age.

The result tends to support the idea that the universe is "open" — that is, contains too little matter to prevent it expanding for ever. The astronomers responsible are reluctant to accept this conclusion, which runs counter to their preferred cosmological theories.

The team of Nigel Metcalfe, Tom

Shanks, Ana Campos, Dick Fong and Jon Gardner have examined images of the faintest galaxies ever seen, taken by the Hubble space telescope and by two ground-based instruments, the William Herschel telescope in the Canaries and the UK Infrared Telescope in Hawaii.

These images show countless faint galaxies, which tend to be blue, suggesting that they contain newly formed stars. Older collections of stars tend to be red.

The Durham team used information about the colour of the galaxies to estimate their red-shift — the amount by which their light spectrum is shifted in wavelength — and hence how far away they are. In *Nature*, they report that the faint blue galaxies are

at a red-shift of 2, which implies they are very far away indeed. The light from them has taken about 10 billion years to reach us.

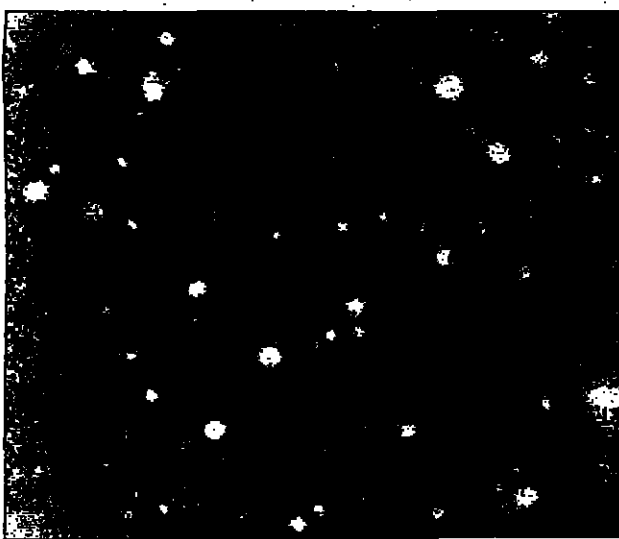
The implications of the finding are that the bulk of the galaxies and the stars they contain formed early in the history of the universe, perhaps three to five billion years after the Big Bang.

To a simple observer, admits Dr Shanks, that suggests that the universe does not really contain as much matter as he would like. "If there was a lot of matter, then it would have gone on clumping and forming galaxies right up to the present day," he says. "That doesn't appear to have happened."

The data suggest that there was only

enough matter to form galaxies early on and that it later became so spread out that it could no longer clump into them. But that in turn implies that there will not be enough matter around to slow down and reverse the universe's expansion, which will go on for ever.

For a variety of reasons — some of them, Dr Shanks admits, almost metaphysical — cosmologists prefer a model in which there is just enough matter eventually to stop expansion. "I have the usual cosmologist's bias towards this model and would like it to be true," he says. The evidence of this study is, however, far from conclusive. There are a number of ways in which the data could be massaged to fit the preferred model.



Infra-red pictures show universe may never end

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Gift to Wallace Collection will help London's 'hidden jewel' to renovate building and attract public

## Anonymous benefactor gives £2.5m to art gallery

By DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

AN ANONYMOUS donor has given £2.5 million to the Wallace Collection, enabling the London gallery to seek a lottery grant for expansion in the knowledge that it already possesses its required share of the costs.

The museum wants to transform the basement of Hertford House in Manchester Square into galleries, a public library and a lecture theatre; a courtyard will become a sculpture garden with a restaurant. The scheme will cost £10 million, but the gallery is now in the happy position of already having the 25 per cent of funds it must contribute if the grant is approved. The gallery, one of the art world's better-kept secrets, hopes that the scheme will help it to attract more visitors.

The gift has been made through Christie's. Two months ago, an "important" client approached the chairman, Lord Hindlip, for advice on which of three national institutions he should choose to make a donation. Lord Hindlip suggested the Wallace, partly because it was where he first developed his own passion for art.

A collection he described as "London's hidden jewel" boasts important French, Dutch and Italian Masters, including Fragonard, Rembrandt, Rubens and Titian. Many visitors head straight for Frans Hals's *Laughing Cavalier*. Other exhibits include gold boxes, miniatures and one of England's finest collections of armour.

The collection was formed between 1802 and 1875 by three Marquesses of Hertford and

by the 4th Marquess's illegitimate son, Sir Richard Wallace. His French widow bequeathed it to Britain in 1897. Many of the works were acquired at Christie's. A stipulation was that the collection could never be mixed with other works of art or loaned elsewhere.

The cash will enable the Wallace Collection to redevelop cramped basement rooms. There will, for example, be an education centre. The gallery has developed activities for schools, but at present has nowhere to put them. It also aims to establish a library with archives available to the public.

A courtyard will be covered with a glass roof, turning it into a sculpture garden and restaurant-café that can be hired out to generate funds for the museum; already, the Wallace hires out galleries, raising £130,000 a year.

The plans will not interfere with the main galleries, which remain sacrosanct, according to Rosalind Savill, the director. She said: "The museum's regulars will not be upset, much as some would prefer it to remain their secret haven. The plans will only enhance the building, making it more accessible. I want it to have a higher profile."

Ms Savill intends to increase visitor figures from 165,000 a year to 250,000; admission will remain free. Facilities for disabled people, which she admitted were "lousy", will be created.

The renovated building should be completed by 2000, the hundredth anniversary of the Wallace Collection opening to the public.



Rosalind Savill with a bust of Lady Wallace

## Woman in knife attack is sent to Broadmoor

By RICHARD DUCE

AN UNEMPLOYED woman who went berserk at her local jobcentre and stabbed four people was sent to Broadmoor indefinitely by an Old Bailey judge yesterday.

Women and children fled screaming as the woman ran amok. One bystander was left with a 10in kitchen knife embedded in his skull. After a judge ordered that Fearline Ayton, 28, be detained indefinitely at the secure mental hospital, it emerged that two of her victims were so badly affected by the attack nine months ago that they had been unable to return to work.

Ayton was suffering from paranoid schizophrenia when she armed herself with four knives and five screwdrivers and attacked public and staff at the jobcentre in Bexleyheath, southeast London.

Mark Dennis, for the prosecution, described how people threw chairs at the powerfully built woman in an attempt to stop her after she stabbed Simon Bridge, 25, through the back of the head as he stood in a queue. The knife was embedded until he went to hospital.

After stabbing a woman with a screwdriver she went upstairs and attacked two employees. One man had an artery in his arm severed before Ayton was arrested by police.

Ayton, who admitted four charges of wounding, was ordered to be detained indefinitely under the Mental Health Act.

After the hearing Kent police said that most members of staff at the jobcentre had needed counselling for post-traumatic stress.

## MoD bans radiation surveys of A-plants

By IAN MURRAY, COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

THE Ministry of Defence has refused permission for an aerial survey of radiation levels above two atomic weapons plants, despite fears that emissions may be linked to leukaemias in children living near by.

Newbury District Council commissioned an independent survey of its area after reports that the Pentagon and MoD had hushed up reports of a radiation leak after an accident to an atomic bomber at Greenham Common airbase 35 years ago.

The £250,000 survey by Southampton University began yesterday with a flight over the former US base. The entire council area should be monitored by a helicopter that flies at a height of 200 feet in bands 300 feet apart to collect the material needed.

The MoD has refused permission for low level flights above the Aldermaston and Burghfield atomic weapons establishments. The council was told that the helicopter could fly to the edge of the perimeter fences at low level but would have to climb to 2,000 feet above the bases. This would be too high to be of any use.

The results of the survey are expected to be published in February. The council said that without the aerial samples it would be impossible to prove that radiation levels in the area were safe.

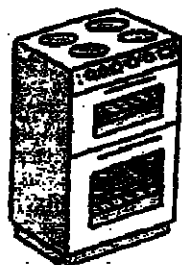
The MoD said it had banned the flights to avoid any chance of an accident, adding: "We consider the information which could be gained to be so small as not to justify the risk."



The Wallace's galleries, with their hundreds of Old Masters, will not be altered in the £10 million expansion scheme, but the director hopes to attract many more visitors

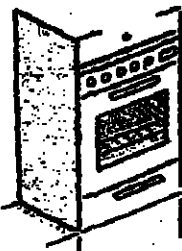


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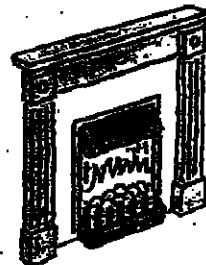
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## Prime Ministers get best gossip from Old Stripty

BY ALICE THOMSON  
POLITICAL REPORTER

DOWNING STREET'S most covered store of secrets is about to be revealed as "Old Stripty", a tattered blue box with a red band that contains the nation's espionage intelligence and "juiciest" scandals.

Cabinet ministers have to make do with red boxes, but John Major also has Old Stripty sent to him most nights from the Secret Service. The material is so confidential that only he and his Principal Private Secretary are allowed to see it.

Margaret Thatcher always read the box first "because it had the juicy stuff in it" and was better than *The Sun*, according to Lord Armstrong,

her former private secretary. The material compiled by M15 and M16 "wasn't just intelligence, but other highly confidential and personal stuff".

Downing Street refused to discuss Old Stripty last night, but the existence of the box is revealed in a new BBC documentary, *How To Be A Prime Minister*, which gives tips from former premiers on how to cope with life at the top. It will be shown on BBC2 on Sunday night.

Lord Callaghan of Cardiff, the former Labour Prime Minister, says in the programme that Tony Blair would struggle as Prime Minister because he had no ministerial experience: "I found ministerial experience invaluable. It teaches you all the

tricks the departments are going to try. They either want to deceive you into doing nothing or doing something that shouldn't be done."

Lady Thatcher says that it is necessary to be intimidating and "one must always be on the job. There's not much point being a weak, floppy thing in a chair, is there?" She advises that all you need to run the country is "six good strong men and true". Unfortunately, she adds, she never found six at one time.

Sir Charles Powell, a former senior aide, describes her style as "Leninist — the nice side of Lenin, let's say, not the ideology, but the absolute determination". Douglas Hurd, the former Foreign Secretary, says that she was brilliant at using feminine charms.

The former Prime Ministers say that the Queen is a wonderful agony aunt whom they loved. Only Lady Thatcher did not fall for her and is thought to have hated going for "eats and sleeps" at Windsor Castle.

Lord Callaghan said: "Being Prime Minister is a lonely task. There are things you have to keep to yourself — your personal life and relations with other Cabinet colleagues. The Queen was always very interested in that kind of relationship and one could unburden oneself to her."

Having interviewed Prime Ministers over the past 15 years, the reporter Michael Cockerell says that they all become isolated, dictatorial and increasingly bizarre by the end. Harold Wilson evidently wanted to

assassinate Idi Amin at the height of his dictatorial rule in Uganda, according to his former press secretary, Joe Haines.

They all agree that it is worth applying for the job, but occupants cannot expect more than five hours' sleep and have to learn to camp. Lord Callaghan said that becoming Prime Minister was "a religious sensation, a very profound feeling".

Sir Edward Heath said: "All a Prime Minister must do is remember to keep his head. Quite simple." He received letters from angry women saying: "Don't you understand that we elect you and we pay you to work seven days a week, 24 hours a day and yet we see that last Saturday you were sailing."

Country folk  
turned off  
by TV soap  
village plan

BY PAUL WILKINSON

A FILM-SET village for a television soap opera is being planned on greenbelt land at the country estate of the Queen's cousin Lord Harewood despite fierce opposition from environmentalists and residents.

Leeds planning committee has approved the building of a replica of Esholt, the real village where much of the Yorkshire TV serial *Emmerdale* is recorded, in the grounds of Harewood House, seven miles north of Leeds. But the councillors have left the final word with John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, by referring their decision to his department.

Jerry Pearlman, national solicitor of the Ramblers' As-

sociation, said: "I am astonished. The greatest asset of Leeds is its green belt and their planning policy, such as it is, seems determined to ruin it. The only justification would seem to be putting money in the pocket of the landowner."

Clive Fox, of the Leeds branch of the Council for the Protection of Rural England, said: "This is a straightforward commercial venture and in our view there is no special circumstances which would warrant an exception. I'm sure we will be urging Mr Gummer to call a public inquiry."

YTV has used Esholt, between Leeds and Bradford, for many years for its exterior shots of Beckindale, the fic-



Hotbed of intrigue: Johnny Leeze, left, Roberta Kerr and Ian Kelsey in the Yorkshire TV series *Emmerdale*

tional village of the series. But the stone-built main street has become crowded with tourists. Usually the street is cleared while filming takes place and Yorkshire TV is worried about problems when the twice-weekly programme starts broadcasting three times a week in the New Year.

Two farms at Lord Harewood's 4,000-acre estate are already used in the show. The producers want to convert a barn and cottage there and incorporate them into a copy of Main Street. Esholt, complete with the famous Woolpack pub, post office, cricket pavilion and church.

Residents in the village of Harewood, which is on the

busy A61 near the entrance to the house, fear they may become another crowded Esholt. Zoe White, 20, a nanny, said: "Children I look after already wake up when juggernauts go past. Last summer we had Yorkshire Water tankers thunder by. The last thing we need is an *Emmerdale* set and tourists in their cars coming here to see it."

Another resident, Jo Howard, 52, said: "The A61 is a nightmare as it is. This can only make matters worse." However, Erica Cheetham, spokesman for the Harwood Trust, which runs the estate, said: "It is not the intention of *Emmerdale* or ourselves that the film site should become a

tourist attraction like Granada Studios. Tourism is not the primary aim of filming at Harewood. There are no plans to allow visitors to the site."

She said that film crews would have access to the set via a private road. "This does not involve Harewood village or the A61 and will lead to no increase in traffic from TV crews."

Yorkshire TV said that the estate offered the advantages of seclusion and security. Filming in Esholt had become extremely difficult because of the many visitors, who were encouraged by Bradford Tourist Authority.

The plan was welcomed by people in Esholt. Joan

Routledge, 61, said: "I'm sick of the hangers-on who keep coming here to see *The Woolpack*. They come to get a glimpse of the actors, clogging up roads and choking the place in summer. It's a Godsend the show might be moving."

Another resident, Joe Rimmer, 45, said: "It's a pity because it put Esholt on the map. But give someone else a decade of uninformed guests, that's what I say."

The series, which has run for 23 years, began as a simple story of Yorkshire dales folk, but its ratings leapt after new scriptwriters turned the fictional village into a hotbed of sex and intrigue worthy of *Dallas* or *Peyton Place*.

Cantona is  
told to pay  
damages  
for assault

Eric Cantona was ordered by a judge in pay £350 damages yesterday to a salesman who said that the footballer assaulted him outside an hotel in Chester.

Tom Doyle, 38, said that he was grabbed, slapped and scratched by Cantona after he and other Manchester United players had attended a race meeting in May 1994. District Judge David Gee made his ruling in chambers at Liverpool County Court after hearing evidence from Mr Doyle and counsel for Cantona, who did not attend court.

Mr Doyle had turned down £1,000 offered by Cantona without admission of liability. A solicitor for the 30-year-old footballer said that he strenuously denied the allegation.

## Bondi charge

A second man was charged in connection with the death of a British tourist at Bondi Beach, Sydney. Sean Cushman, 22, is accused of being an accessory. His friend Aaron Martin, 22, is already accused of murdering Brian Hagland, 28, from London.

## Pilot bales out

An RAF pilot parachuted into the sea moments before his Jaguar jet plunged into the sea off the coast of Moray. He was rescued by helicopter and given a medical check-up back at RAF Lossiemouth. He had reported a mechanical failure in the aircraft.

## Channel 5 delay

The launch of Channel 5 has been delayed by a month until February 5 next year because nine million video recorders have still to be returned. Fewer than a million have been returned so far. The channel should be available to about 80 per cent of homes.

## Boy in cliff fall

A teenage boy suffered only minor cuts and bruises after falling down a 40ft cliff. Graham Scott, 13, and Mark McQueen, his friend, were cycling along the cliff edge near South Shields when Graham lost his balance. He landed on a beach.

## Killer driver

A driver who had been disqualified 15 times was jailed for five years for killing Julia Wickenden, 22, a medical student, as she cycled to her home in Liverpool. Warren Thomas, 22, of Liverpool, admitted causing death by dangerous driving.

## Drug boat arrests

Two Dutchmen were arrested on a beach in Suffolk after unloading 150 kilograms of cannabis resin from a dinghy. Police were alerted after a man in a diving suit was seen emerging from the water. The men are due to appear before Lowestoft magistrates today.

## Drink alert

Alcoholic lemonades will set off an electronic alert at Sainsbury's checkouts as a signal to staff to check the buyer's age. The measures are being introduced after the managers of a store in York lost their drink licence because of under-age sales.

## CORRECTION

A report (September 16) on barristers' pay named a number of silks said to be earning more than £1 million a year. We have been asked to make clear that, whereas those listed are judged to be the country's top ten all-round barristers, by no means all are in the £1 million-plus earning category.

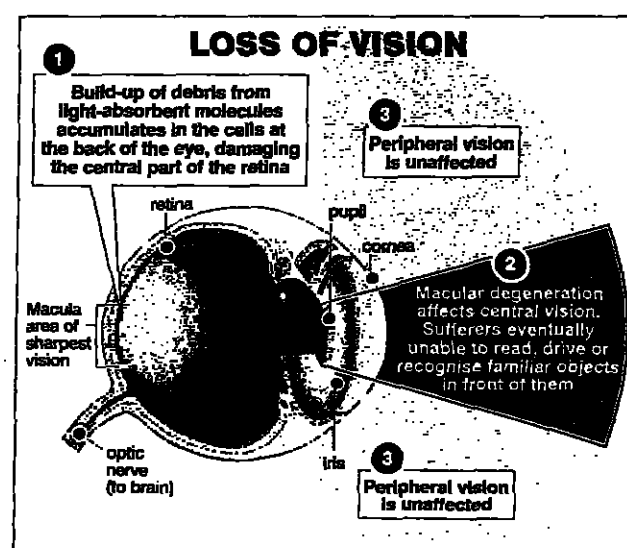
Modern  
way of life  
blamed for  
increase in  
eye disease

BY JEREMY LAURANCE  
HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

MODERN ways of life might be to blame for an increase in an incurable eye disease which leads to blindness, scientists say. Loss of sight caused by macular degeneration, in which the cell layer behind the retina begins to rot, has doubled since the 1950s and now affects more than 500,000 people in this country.

There are believed to be genetic factors, but researchers at the Institute of Ophthalmology in London say aspects of 20th century living — including pollution, industrial or household chemicals, and diet — could play an important role. Alan Bird, Professor of Clinical Ophthalmology and an expert on the condition, said the disease had not existed in Japan 20 years ago but was now the commonest cause of blindness in urban Japan.

Professor Bird is to lead studies in urban and rural



areas of England, Spain, Italy and Holland of the role of genes and the environment. Similar studies are to be done in Japan. A pilot survey in southern Italy showed that the condition was much less common than in inner London, despite the subjects' genetic similarity. The southern Italians' way of life was completely different, he said. They didn't shop at supermarkets, and they grew their own food.

Macular degeneration is caused by the build-up of debris in the cells at the back of the eye, damaging the central part of the retina but leaving side vision unaffected. One theory is that the in-

creased use of plastics in the west has resulted in the migration into food of chemicals called polychlorinated biphenyls which affect the process of cell breakdown and renewal. Professor Bird said: "I have no evidence that plasticisers or polychlorinated biphenyls are involved, but if there is an environmental factor it must be ubiquitous."

He was speaking at a meeting to announce a £5.3 million expansion of the institute, part-funded with a £3.3 million grant from the medical charity Fight for Sight, which will double its laboratory space. The rest of the money will come from the trustees of Moorfields Eye Hospital.

QE2 sails in with  
15-ton passenger

BY ROBIN YOUNG

THE cruise liner QE2 docked in Lisbon harbour with a 15-ton fin whale impaled on her bow. The accident was described by the ship's captain yesterday as "the marine equivalent of running over a cat".

The 60ft whale remained pinned to the ship's bow by the tide and rescue workers had to wait for the current to change before it could be towed clear of the liner's icebreaker. A crane was used to winch the carcass from the water.

Captain Keith Stanley, QE2's master, said the whale would have been hit on Sunday night as the ship sailed from Cadiz to Lisbon. "I have been at sea for 40 years and

have never come across anything like it before," he said. "Normally whales get out of the way. This one may have already been dead when we struck it, or it may have been ailing."

He said the whale had not been noticed before QE2 put into port because shuddering from the 70,000-ton ship made it difficult to feel an impact, even with something as substantial as a whale. Lisbon port authorities hope that the skeleton will end up in a museum.

Dr David George, a marine biologist at the Natural History Museum in London, said 15 tons was extremely light for a 60ft fin whale. "The animal was probably ill," he said,

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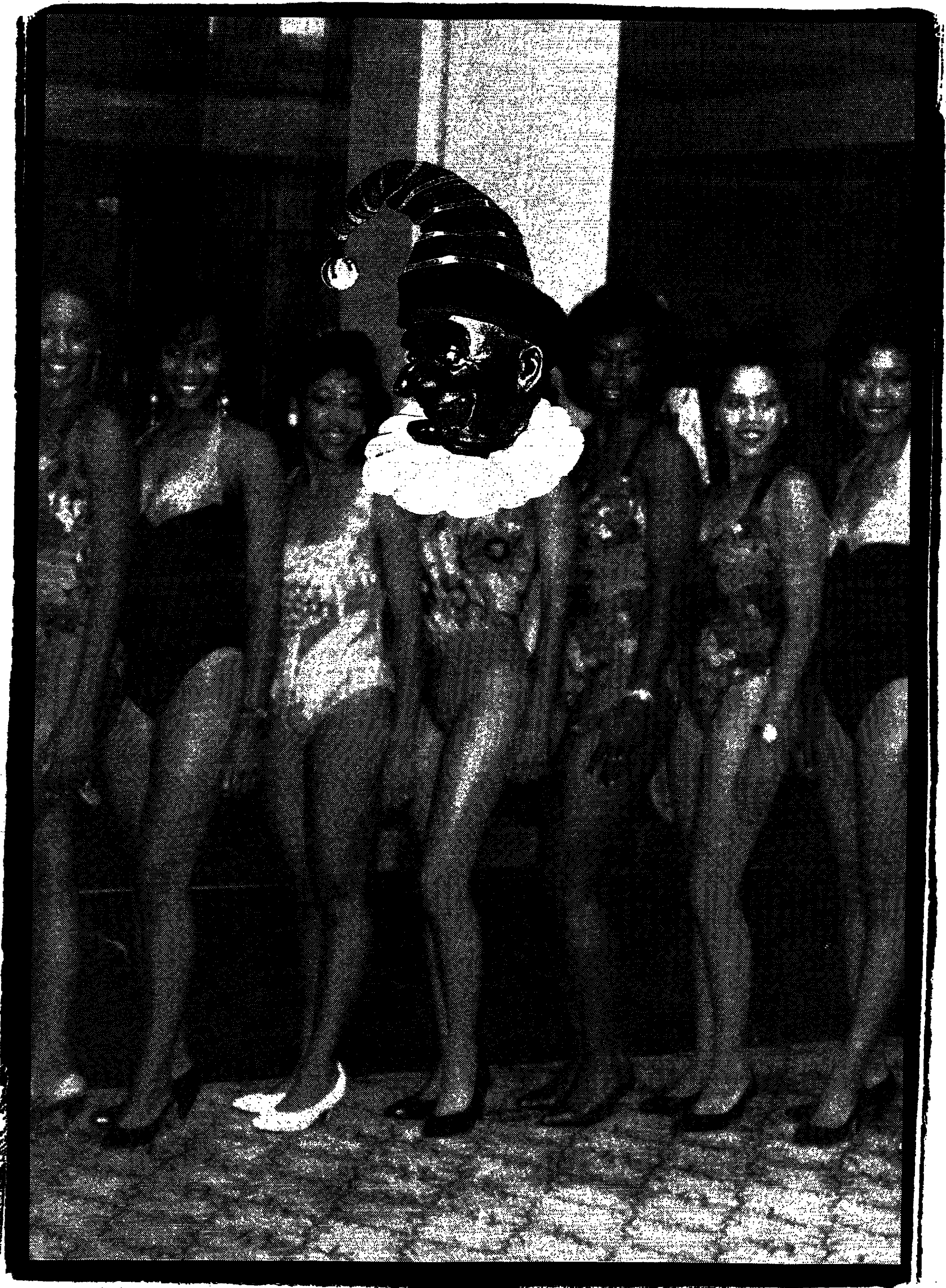
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# Downing St opens door to charter inspectors

By VALERIE ELLIOTT, WHITEHALL EDITOR

JOHN MAJOR is to open the doors of 10 Downing Street to inspectors who will award his office a performance rating under the Citizen's Charter.

The rest of Whitehall and government agencies will also be scrutinised after the publication today of a White Paper on what senior officials are now calling "Sir Humphrey's Charter".

Departments of state will be told to shed their faceless image and to improve their contact with the public.

The inspections are expected to create keen competition between the senior mandarins, with departmental league tables showing the performance of each office.

The standards will apply to all public agencies, from the Tower of London and Hampton Court Palace to the Meat and Livestock Commission.

By encouraging a greater understanding of the grey labyrinth of government, ministers believe that the public will feel more in touch with the

really wasn't fair to keep demanding tougher standards from hospitals and schools without doing something about ourselves.

Other changes include tougher targets for ambulance services, in response to the many public complaints about long delays, and national league tables for university results.

To try to encourage more people to expect high standards from their local services, today the Government will also release a CD-Rom containing all the recent performance indicators. About 5,000 will be available to schools, libraries and local councils and another 5,000 may be requested by members of the public.

Ministers want people to compare standards around the country and to question local services that fail to make the grade.

New leaflets for pensioners and families with young children are also planned. The idea is to highlight the rights, entitlements and local services for these groups in one booklet.

Despite the Labour Party's derision of the Citizen's Charter, it now seems certain that a Labour government would keep the system and make the standards more stringent.

Plans being considered by Derek Foster, the Shadow Public Services Minister, are to create an independent charter audit office to ensure that public services come up to scratch. Instead of relying on services to apply for the Chartermark, Labour would prefer to have a scheme under which inspectors singled out public bodies for checks on standards.

Labour also believes that there should be a two-tier system with national bodies being judged in a different way from local services.

One Labour source said: "We believe that the Citizen's Charter needs more bite and that teams should be proactive, finger-pointing and going in to make checks. Reports could then be submitted to a select committee."

Next week a Labour team is to hear evidence about possible reforms to the Citizen's Charter and will submit its conclusions to the Public Service Select Committee.

Anyone who would like one of the 5,000 free CD-Rom performance indicator programmes should telephone the Citizen's Charter unit on 0345 223242.

A senior government source said last night: "We decided it

## Gruelling questions are an eye-opener for clinic staff

By VALERIE ELLIOTT

THE Citizen's Charter may be thought of as little more than John Major's gimmick but any group that applies for a Chartermark award can expect searching questions to qualify.

Peter Summerscale, the former British Ambassador to Costa Rica and Nicaragua, who worked as a European Union monitor in the former Yugoslavia last year, inspected the Croydon Eye Unit in south London this week. His task as a Chartermark assessor was to judge whether the unit merited the award, the symbol of excellence coveted by public-sector staff but largely misunderstood by the rest of the country.

Last night Helen Seward, clinical director and senior eye surgeon at the unit, was still recovering from the six-hour visit and Mr Summerscale's detailed questioning. She badly wants her unit, which is part of the Mayday Hospital Trust, to win the award. Norma Major, the Prime Minister's wife, is supporting the application. Mrs Major's mother, Edith Johnson, was treated there for cataracts.

But Miss Seward, 42, was uncertain about the outcome: "I thought it was pretty tough and gruelling, but totally fair.



Peter Summerscale, a Chartermark inspector, questioning Helen Seward, clinical director of the Croydon Eye Unit

He had really done his homework and certainly knew what he wanted. I feel as if I have just been through a most important exam. I know we won't get 100 per cent on everything."

Mr Summerscale arrived promptly and was soon engaged in asking a series of questions. What did Miss Seward do about complaints? Did her unit provide real value-for-money? What inno-

ventions were planned for the future? He concentrated on the areas he had perceived as weak in the application for a Chartermark.

He criticised the 30-day time lapse for the unit's final answer to a complaint, but accepted that there were few formal complaints and that many minor ones were often resolved by telephone. However, he did not rely upon Miss Seward's word. Later,

during a tour of the outpatients' clinic, he asked to see the official complaint book from patients and insisted upon seeing a copy of a letter to a particular complainant.

He questioned the practice of holding clinics in various GP surgeries throughout the area, and wanted detailed costings of a plan to bring specialists from Moorfields' Eye Hospital in central London to deal with the more

difficult cases in Croydon. To ensure that efficiency savings were being achieved, he spent 30 minutes with the accountant and seemed satisfied when the unit had found a supplier to buy lenses at half price.

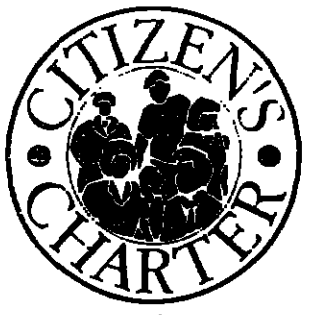
Staff appeared not to expect such rigorous inquiries. Mr Summerscale wanted to know why the unit did not display the cost of each operation, but on that point Miss Seward

was adamant: "I won't put up a list on the wall and I don't apologise for it. I don't want to put off the elderly, who think the cash should be spent on someone else if an operation is going to improve their daily life. But we have the costs at reception if someone really wants to know." Local GPs and former patients were also questioned in detail about the unit.

Yesterday Mr Summerscale said he had no doubt that Miss Seward was an effective manager and explained that his purpose during the visit had been to explore areas which had appeared weak. "You have to go into these visits with a certain degree of scepticism. There have been occasions when people have given me the wrong information."

He did not reveal the outcome, however. Winners among this year's 737 public services applying for the Chartermark will be notified in November.

The Croydon Eye Unit has 28 staff and treats 35,000 outpatients a year on an annual budget of just under £1 million. Most patients are elderly people needing cataract operations. Last year 86 per cent of those patients achieved the vision required for driving standards, compared with the 80 per cent national target.



Chartermark: awarded only to the best services

bureaucrats whose decisions affect their lives.

Roger Freeman, the Public Services Minister, has agreed that from January 1 next year any letters to ministers or officials should be answered within 20 days. Callers will be directed to a central inquiry point, rather than being passed from pillar to post.

Anyone wishing to visit a department or official will be offered a firm appointment. A formal mechanism will deal with complaints, and government forms are to be tested on a cross-section of the public to ensure that they are written in simple language that anyone can understand.

To prepare for this new climate in Whitehall a committee of officials has been set up to discuss the changes, and a seminar to train officials about customer service is to be held in November.

A senior government source said last night: "We decided it

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# Pope in political minefield as French feud over visit

FROM BEN MACINTYRE  
IN PARIS

WHEN the Pope arrives in France for a four-day visit today, he will be greeted by crowds of Roman Catholics. 10,000 security personnel and a storm of controversy.

The Pope's visit, his fifth to France since 1980, has provoked anger over a wide range of issues, including church dogma, race, history and national identity, while the papal tour is being opposed by groups ranging from militant

secularists to Freemasons and anarchists.

As he begins his last foreign trip before undergoing surgery in Rome to remove his inflamed appendix, the Pontiff's health will be subject to close scrutiny amid increasing scepticism over Vatican silence concerning the violent shaking of his left hand, sometimes a symptom of Parkinson's Disease.

The religious aspects of the Pope's visit are in danger of being overshadowed by domestic political posturing. Jean-Marie Le Pen,

the National Front leader, who was criticised by church leaders on Monday for declaring the superiority of the white race, has said he plans to attend a papal Mass in Rheims on Sunday to mark the 1,500th anniversary of the baptism of the Frankish King Clovis, even though church officials say he has not been invited.

Clovis has been adopted as a figurehead by the extreme Right in France, but many secular-minded critics have also questioned why the Government is supporting the

celebration of a strictly religious event in a nation where Church and State have been separated since 1905.

In a gruelling schedule that will test the 76-year-old Pope's fragile health, he will travel to Tours and Brittany before arriving in Rheims at the climax of the tour. Several hospitals have been placed on alert along the route in case the Pope requires emergency treatment.

A growing number of French Catholics, who nominally make up 80 per cent of the population, have

expressed opposition to the Pope's conservative teachings on birth control, abortion, homosexuality and priestly celibacy. Hundreds of Catholics have asked to have their names struck from baptismal registers in protest at the Pope's rigid dogma, and opponents of the papal visit, comprising more than 65 different organisations, plan to hold a protest rally in the Place de la République in Paris on Sunday.

Security has been strengthened after the discovery of a home-made bomb at one of the 21 stops on the

Pope's tour, and priests in Nantes were attacked last week by anarchists hurling custard pies.

Some 10,000 police, paramilitary gendarmes, sharpshooters and bodyguards have been mobilised to monitor the crowds and safeguard the Pope, who will also be protected by a squad of 125 guards from France's elite VIP protection unit. Police say they expect that small groups of activists may attempt to disrupt religious events, and *Le Figaro* reported that one militant anti-clerical group had hired a

lookalike Pope at a cost of £1,000 for a protest in Rheims.

In the wake of the Clovis ruckus, President Chirac, an occasional churchgoer who made a state visit to the Vatican in February, has elected not to attend the baptism anniversary celebration at Rheims, where 150,000 pilgrims are expected for an open-air Mass. Instead the President will meet the Pope when he arrives at Tours this morning.

French budget, page 24

## Ex-minister to face Vichy war crimes trial

BY BEN MACINTYRE

MAURICE PAPON, a former Cabinet minister, must stand trial for crimes against humanity for allegedly deporting hundreds of Jews to Nazi death camps when he was an official in the Vichy regime, a French appeal court ruled yesterday.

The ruling in Bordeaux marks the latest chapter in a 15-year legal effort to bring the Papon case to trial and sets the stage for a painful and overdue examination of France's wartime past.

M. Papon, 86, is accused of sending 1,690 French Jews, including 223 children, to Nazi concentration camps, where most perished in the gas chambers of Auschwitz, when he was secretary-general of the Bordeaux region between 1942 and 1944.

M. Papon went on to become chief of the Paris police and Budget Minister under President Giscard d'Estaing until

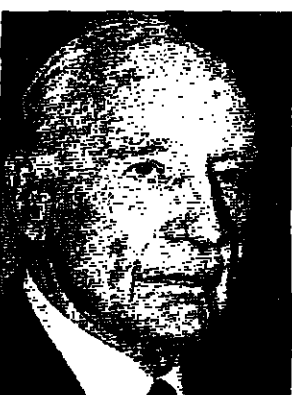
his alleged role in the Vichy regime was revealed, abruptly ending his political career.

He is only the second Frenchman to be sent for trial for crimes against humanity. But where Paul Touvier, who was convicted in 1994 and died in prison this year, was an anti-Semitic thief and thug, M. Papon was a distinguished civil servant and a recipient of the Légion d'Honneur.

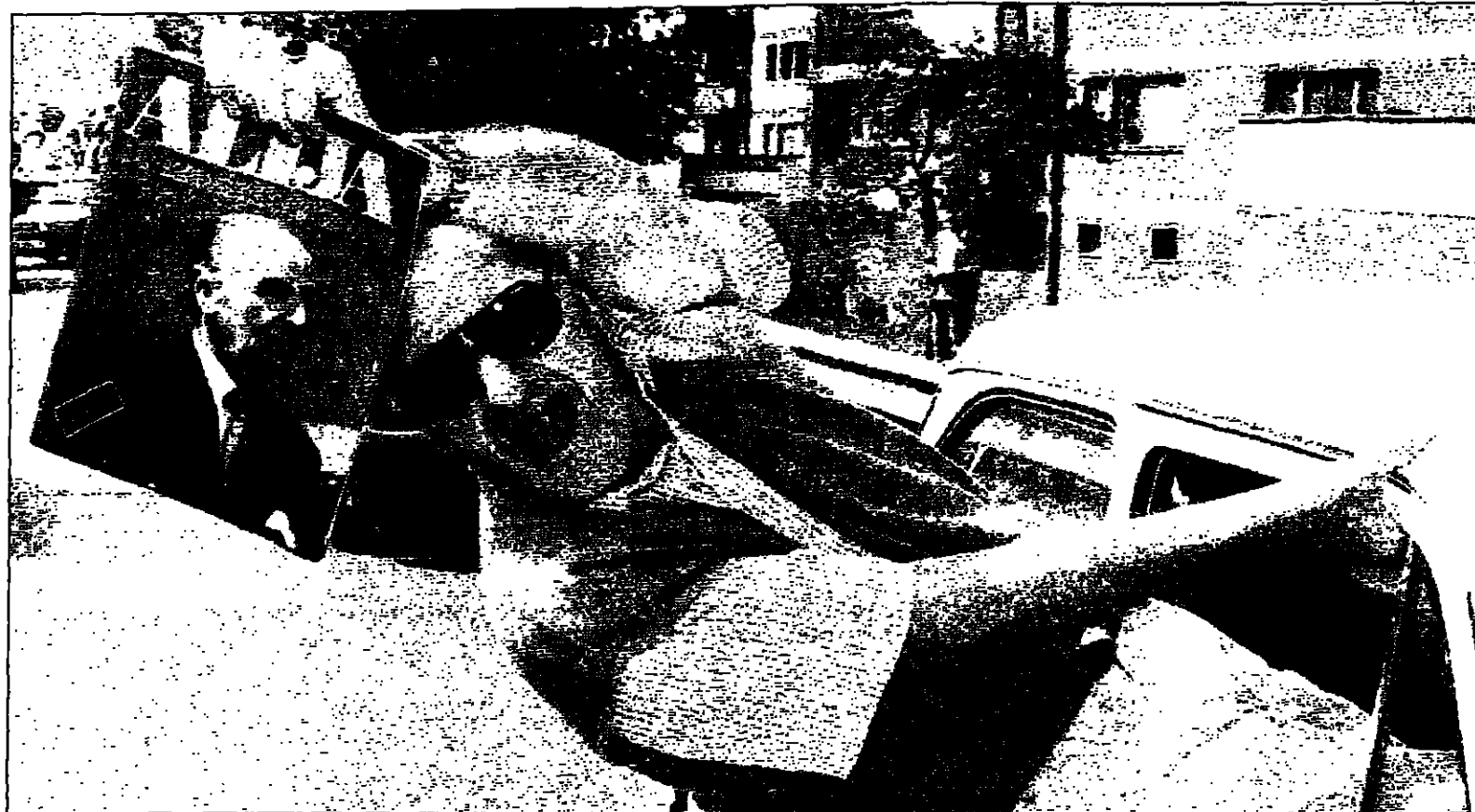
Relatives of the victims have waged a long and frustrating legal battle to bring M. Papon to trial, in the face of stalling by successive governments unwilling to address a dark period in French history.

In 1994 the late President Mitterrand, himself a former Vichy official, admitted he had held up the legal process out of a desire to maintain "civil peace". M. Papon has always insisted he was merely a "powerless spectator" to the rounding-up of French Jews, but the Bordeaux public prosecutor has insisted that he must have been aware of the horrible fate of the Jews deported under his authority. He might have entirely escaped exposure had his signature not been found on a series of deportation orders discovered in 1981.

The Supreme Court appeals process will take at least six months and the victims' families say they fear M. Papon may die before he eventually comes to trial. His superiors in the Vichy hierarchy all died while their cases remained bogged down in the legal system.



Papon: claimed he was a "powerless spectator"



A supporter of the Party of Democratic Action holds up a picture of Mr Izetbegovic outside the presidency building in Sarajevo yesterday

## Muslim to lead divided Bosnian presidency

FROM STACY SULLIVAN IN SARAJEVO

ALIJJA IZETBEGOVIC, the Bosnian President, stood poised to resume the chairmanship of the country's newly elected tripartite presidency after narrowly defeating his Serb rival by 40,000 votes, it was announced yesterday in Sarajevo.

Although Mr Izetbegovic was expected to garner the most votes within the Muslim-Croat Federation, he was locked in a close race with Momcilo Krajisnik, the nationalist candidate from the Serb Republic. Now the two

men, who have been bitter enemies for the past four years of war, will take their offices next to each other along with Kresimir Zubak, the Croat nationalist. The trio, who will govern for two years, will not do so easily.

The Bosnian Serbs acknowledged defeat in the election and said they would co-operate with joint institutions due to emerge from the vote. Veljko Ostojic, the Bosnian Serb Deputy Prime Minister, said the Serbs would "have to live with" the results, and

promised they would "not boycott the work and will not disrupt in any way the functioning" of Bosnia's new joint institutions.

Mr Izetbegovic, speaking for the first time in public since the election, said he would work for "reunification and justice. I want to repeat my political goal. In short it is the reunification of the country and justice in it".

Despite these pledges, the future is far from clear. Mr Izetbegovic has become increasingly more nationalist. His outgunned Bosnian Army suffered heavily during the war and the Bosnian population bore the brunt of the suffering, and his Muslim-led Party of Democratic Action began to exhibit less tolerance towards Serb and Croat minorities since the war ended.

Mr Krajisnik has been fighting for a separate Serb state for the past four years and is believed to be one of the founding fathers of "ethnic cleansing", under which nearly a million people were

brutally uprooted from their homes. He is under investigation by the International War Crimes Tribunal.

Mr Zubak, former head of the nationalist Croatian Democratic League, has also made no secret of his desire to see a greater Croatia that would encompass parts of Bosnia. Given Mr Krajisnik's open declaration that the Serbs will attempt to separate from the unified state, and Mr Zubak's

### HOW BOSNIA VOTED

MUSLIM	Muslim Nationalist - Party of Democratic Action (SDA)	Alija Izetbegovic (239,784)
SERB	Party for Bosnia-Herzegovina	Veljko Ostojic (129,784)
SERB	Serb Nationalist - Serb Democratic Party (SDS)	Momcilo Krajisnik (99,379)
SERB	Socialist Party - Serb Republic	Mladen Jankic (808,803)
CROAT	Croat Nationalist - Croatian Democratic Union (HDZ)	Kresimir Zubak (942,007)
United List		
	Two Kosevo (99,261)	

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## Time-off deal cuts costs for VW

FROM RUGER BOYES  
IN BONN

VOLKSWAGEN, Germany's largest car manufacturer, is planning to cut huge operating costs with a scheme that pays workers in an imaginary currency redeemable as they near retirement.

The idea, prompted by the ambition of Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, to create two million jobs by the year 2000, has earned the approval of the company's works council. Instead of being paid overtime and annual bonuses, Volkswagen, and Audi, workers will be offered certificates representing 10, 25, 50 and 100 work hours that will earn guaranteed interest. When a worker has earned enough of these units, he will be able to take a year off - redeeming certificates - without reducing living standards.

The main beneficiaries, however, are supposed to be 55 to 60-year-olds, whose workload, according to Volkswagen plans, will be reduced in 18 hours a week. They will be able to make up their salaries with certificates earned when younger. From age 60, workers on reduced hours will have their salaries made up by the state and by the company until they reach official retirement age.

The advantage to Volkswagen and to the German economy is that management will be able to hire young workers and offer them a credible incentive for flexible hours. Volkswagen believes the scheme will benefit thousands of its 130,000 workforce.

## Eastwood has his say in 15 words

FROM GILES WHITTELL  
IN LOS ANGELES

CLINT EASTWOOD'S court battle with his former lover heated up when he gave evidence in his own defence on Tuesday, denying that he ever set out to defraud the actress Sandra Lucke, with whom he lived for 13 years.

Like the characters he plays, Mr Eastwood answered questions from Ms Lucke's lawyer in a court in Burbank, California, in monosyllables. He uttered 15 words in five minutes, admitting that he had financed a \$1.5 million (€960,000) production deal at Warner Brothers for the actress without her knowledge.

But when asked by his own lawyers to explain the deal, he said it had been an alternative to a \$7.5 million divorce claim in which Ms Lucke had been "holding a gun to my head". He also said he had never discouraged the studio from working with her.

Ms Lucke, who fell in love with Mr Eastwood while filming *The Outlaw Josey Wales* with him in 1976, says the deal humiliated her and ensured that she would not be taken seriously in Hollywood - even though it guaranteed her a studio parking space with her name on it. She had offered 30 script ideas in as many months, none of which has been developed as a film. After giving evidence, Mr Eastwood was unusually loquacious, telling reporters: "I have done nothing but try to help her, and no good deed goes unpunished."

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## Monarchy under fire as House of Orange's outspoken head oversteps the constitutional mark

## Queen pedals into Dutch row



Queen Beatrix addresses the opening of the Dutch parliament earlier this week

QUEEN BEATRIX of The Netherlands is coming under fire for her behind-the-scenes political activities which have resulted in ambassadors being levered out of their posts and allegations of censorship. The bicycling Queen, it seems, is sticking her spokes into politics.

The Dutch Queen should, according to the constitution, be even more remote from politics than the British monarch. The Prime Minister takes responsibility for every public utterance by the Queen. But there is a deliberate vagueness in the constitutional wording and much depends on the relationship of the Queen with the government of the day. She has the right to a regular briefing from the Prime Minister and the right to express her view; everything else is uncharted territory.

Now the nation is fiercely debating whether the Queen has crossed an invisible line. Sources in The Hague say the Queen was behind the sudden shift of the Dutch Ambassador to South Africa because he was living with a woman who was not his wife. The Queen

The Queen of the Netherlands is ruffling a few feathers, but she would be first choice for President if the country became a republic, Roger Boyes writes

and her consort, Prince Claus, are due to visit South Africa at the end of the month and did not apparently want to be confronted with a diplomat who was "living immorally".

The Queen also pressed the Foreign Minister, Hans van Mierlo, to open an embassy in Amman — she has close relations with King Hussein of Jordan.

It is also widely assumed that the Queen was behind a decision by the Culture Ministry to withdraw state subsidies from a play called *Emily* and the *Secret of the House in the Wood*. *Emily* is the first name of Crown Prince Willem's girlfriend. The House in the Wood — Huis ten Bosch — is the name given to the royal palace. The five-act play is said to be a cheerful satire on the Royal Family. Amsterdam, the least respectful Dutch city in regard to the

Royal Family, has come up with its own subsidy and saved the play, which opens on November 28.

These are quiet machinations. Few outside the closest court circles can be quite sure if the Queen twisted the arm of



Prince Claus, the Queen's consort

the Government or whether, out of an exaggerated allegiance, the ministers anticipated the Queen's displeasure.

The Queen expresses her moral censure openly. She has made clear her opposition to homosexual marriage — parliamentary moves are afoot to legalise such unions — upbraided the Dutch about their lax environmental standards, and urged the country to be more tolerant of immigrants.

There has never been a secret about the 58-year-old Queen's strong views. But they do seem to be becoming sharper and her political interventions are more detailed and focused than they have ever been. The reason may be her concern about the succession. Crown Prince Willem-Alexander has had a series of well publicised love affairs and some of his activities have been viewed with dismay by the Queen.

Queen Beatrix, say Dutch experts, wants to ensure that the monarchy holds the moral high ground, lest it end in the kind of turmoil that has hit the Windsors. The reign of Beatrix is increasingly concerned with maintaining moral standards

in public life. She has been able to break out of her political straitjacket in part because of her high popularity. The Netherlands is not indissolubly wedded to its monarchy; the House of Orange has enjoyed royal status only since 1815 and there is a strong republican streak. But the personal popularity of Queen Beatrix and her mother, Juliana, has consolidated it in modern times. Her standing is such that if the Netherlands ever became a republic, she would probably be elected its first President.

The present debate reflects not only the Queen's moral crusade but also a growing willingness of the Dutch media to tackle what has long been regarded as a taboo subject.

The media consensus — that the Queen, because of her popularity and constitutional position, should be left alone — is beginning to crumble. And the more she enters the political domain, the more justified the newspapers feel in asking questions about her family's role.

Leading article, page 17

## Mayor of Moscow bids for power

FROM RICHARD BEESTON  
IN MOSCOW

WHETHER he is shaking hands with Michael Jackson or lashing out at Kremlin policy-makers, Yuri Luzhkov, the energetic and power-hungry Mayor of Moscow, has served notice to Russia that his ambitions extend far beyond the city's municipal boundaries.

As President Yeltsin remains in hospital awaiting final word on his heart-bypass surgery, the stocky Moscow city boss is already positioning himself for what many suspect will become an outright challenge for the presidency.

The first sign that Mr Luzhkov was emerging as a challenger came earlier this month, when he attacked the peace deal to end the war in Chechnya negotiated by General Aleksandr Lebed, Russia's security chief and another presidential hopeful.

While most of the country was praising the accord, Mr Luzhkov said he had to call "a spade a spade". "I am very glad the war in Chechnya is over, because casualties, shooting and gunfire have finished," he said. "But having read the documents signed, I can say that I regard the agreement as an act of capitulation by the armed forces before gunmen."

He then turned his attention to international politics and in particular the row between Russia and Ukraine over the future status of the Crimean city of Sevastopol, home port of the disputed Black Sea Fleet. "A simple truth needs to be remembered: Sevastopol is a Russian city which we must not lose and which we will not give away to anybody," he said.

While most regional chiefs would be warned not to interfere in the affairs of state, no one dared to silence the Mayor as he appealed to nationalist sentiments.

Running Moscow, which accounts for nearly 10 per cent of the Russian population and much of its wealth, has always been one of the pivotal jobs in the country, and previous incumbents include Boris Yeltsin.

Mr Luzhkov, 50, has won nationwide respect for his energetic work in reviving the capital. In three years the city has become a showcase for successful post-Communist change and a magnet for foreign investment.

Most pundits believe time is on the Mayor's side, and that the longer President Yeltsin remains in his present weakened position the stronger Mr Luzhkov will become.



Luzhkov: challenge to Lebed for presidency

## LBJ was Kennedy 'suspect'

Los Angeles: The KGB believed that Lyndon Johnson, then Vice-President, was responsible for the 1963 assassination of President Kennedy, according to an unedited version of a 1966 FBI document.

The document was released at a public hearing of the Assassination Records Review Board, a federal commission established to collect documents on the assassination.

The board also made public a request from Marina Oswald Porter, widow of Lee Harvey Oswald, who was thought to be Kennedy's killer, asking the board to investigate his involvement with the FBI. (AP)

## India to pay riot compensation

Delhi: India is to pay \$15.4 million to the relatives of those killed in anti-Sikh riots after two Sikh bodyguards murdered Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister, more than a decade ago. The Government's decision arises from last month's court order directing it to pay compensation within four months for nearly 3,000 victims of the 1984 riots. On August 27 an Indian court sentenced 93 Hindus to five years' hard labour for taking part in the riots. (AFP)

## Dying cardinal visits death row

New York: A cardinal with terminal cancer visited a death row prisoner shortly before the man was executed by lethal injection (Quentin Letts writes). Cardinal Joseph Bernardin, Archbishop of Chicago, who himself may have weeks to live, told Raymond Stewart, a mass killer: "We are in the same boat." The two men prayed together during the hour-long visit at Joliet, Illinois.

## Paralysis threat siege ends

Sydney: A siege in which an unarmed man threatened to paralyse his estranged girlfriend, who is in the Royal Perth Rehabilitation Hospital with spinal injuries, by damaging her traction device, ended when Ivan Gavran, 31, was overcome by exhaustion (Roger Maynard writes). Natalie Babic, 29, is expected to make a full recovery.

## Archbishop's body found

Bujumbura: The Burundian Army said soldiers have found the bodies of Archbishop Joachim Ruhuna and a nun, who were murdered in an ambush in central Burundi on September 9. The bodies were found two miles from the site of the attack in Gitega district. (Reuters)

## Not quite white

Dubai: Citizens of the United Arab Emirates want foreigners barred from wearing the *kandoora*, saying "misuse" of the flowing white gowns and headscarves could bring disrepute to Arabs. (Reuters)

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# Death squad chief links de Klerk to apartheid killings

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN PRETORIA

**FORMER** police colonel, who describes himself as apartheid's most effective assassin, has directly implicated W. de Klerk, South Africa's first white President, in clandestine apartheid operations.

Eugene de Kock, 48, who headed a secret counter-insurgency unit, told the Pretoria Supreme Court yesterday that Mr de Klerk had ordered his death squad in 1993 to track a house in Transkei, then a nominally independent homeland, in which five people died, including children.

It was the first time that a former agent of the state, giving evidence under oath, had linked Mr de Klerk to "dirty tricks" operations. De Kock said Mr de Klerk must have known about other such operations because he had admitted to knowing about the Transkei raid.

"De Klerk cannot say he did not know that such [covert] organisations existed," he said. "He himself, as President, ordered the attack in the Transkei in 1993. Surely he knew there were covert units with this ability. Who did he think was going to launch the attack?"

The Transkei house was a base for the armed wing of the African National Congress. The attack on it nearly derailed multiparty negotiations to end apartheid.

Mr de Klerk, the National Party leader, denied any knowledge of atrocities while giving evidence last month.

**F.W. de Klerk is one of the greatest cowards the country has produced**

claims were not new and that the matter had already been raised in his submission to the commission. He said the Transkei raid had been authorised after intelligence gathered pointed to an arms cache on the premises.

De Kock was convicted last month of 39 crimes, including six murders related to the death squad he led in eliminating the government's opponents during the Eighties and early Nineties.

He is giving evidence for the first time in his 18-month trial to plead for leniency. He has

## Scandals monsoon sweeps over India

FROM CHRISTOPHER THOMAS IN DELHI

**INDIA'S** newspapers offered readers a choice yesterday between the telephone scandal, the MPs' pay-off scandal, the animal fodder scandal or the "Godman" scandal. There was scant space for anything else.

Never has independent India been so obsessed with venality — probably because there has never been so much of it. The biggest headlines are reserved for Sukh Ram, the former Communications Minister, who has just returned from a brief exile with his daughter in Southend-on-Sea, Essex, to face accusations of huge fraud. He is in police custody in hospital.

He is suspected of taking kickbacks in the issuing of private telephone contracts while he was a minister. Yesterday Mr Sukh Ram was also charged with holding unaccounted-for funds running into thousands of pounds. The discovery of £660,000 in cash at his Delhi home has been followed by reports that he indirectly owns a majority stake in a five-star hotel in the northern city of Chandigarh. Mr Sukh Ram looks likely to be expelled from the Congress Party for saying that the money found at his home belonged to the party and was to be used for forthcoming elections in the politically important state of Uttar Pradesh.

The Godman scandal involves Chandraswami, once the spiritual adviser to P. V. Narasimha Rao, the former Prime Minister. The "Godman" owns a multi-story ashram in Delhi, but he now lives at nearby Tihar prison, where he is awaiting trial on explosives and criminal conspiracy charges.

Mr Rao is a suspect in the alleged pay-off of several MPs from a small political party, the JMM, whose support in a 1993 vote of confidence was decisive in keeping him in power.

The animal fodder affair has implicated a string of senior bureaucrats. They allegedly received huge pay-offs from an animal husbandry "mafia", which made unrestricted withdrawals from the state treasury in Bihar.



An American soldier hugs his wife at Fort Hood, Texas, before leaving for Kuwait

## Israel 'driving region to war'

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

**CONCERN** about a potential military flare-up between Syria and Israel intensified yesterday as the state-controlled media in Damascus alleged that the policies of Benjamin Netanyahu, the Israeli Prime Minister, had caused tension in the Middle East and could lead to war.

In the most bellicose comments yet made by Syria about the crisis, Fayez al-Sayegh, director-general of Sana, the official Syrian news agency, claimed that the policy of the Israeli Government was aimed at "undermining the peace process and driving the region and its people to a state of tension and escalation ... and maybe war".

Syria's official media described Israel's reaction to recent large-scale Syrian troop

movements in Lebanon as "a campaign of delusion and allegation" and urged America to halt "Israel's uproar which is currently taking the shape of a military threat".

Despite international diplomatic attempts to defuse the situation, Damascus Radio also accused Israel of intensifying its military presence in the occupied western sector of Lebanon by sending in 20 new armoured vehicles, including tanks and heavy artillery.

The crisis, which prompted Israel's authoritative newspaper *Haaretz* to claim that "the winds of war are blowing again in the Middle East", was the subject of an emergency briefing for President Weizman.

A spokesman for Mr Netanyahu said later that

both sides had sent messages via the United States designed to reduce the tension. In Damascus, the official paper *al-Baath* dismissed the chances of Dennis Ross, the US envoy now touring the region, securing a breakthrough between Israel and Syria.

Among Israeli military commanders, concern was growing that even if a confrontation between Israeli and Syrian forces can be avoided in the short run, the long-term dangers of a new war have been greatly increased by the redeployment of over 12,000 Syrian troops in Lebanon in recent weeks.

*Haaretz* disclosed that senior Israeli defence officials have handed an intelligence report to Mr Netanyahu

which concluded that "the chances of war with Syria are no longer low". As a show of strength, Israeli tanks and armoured personnel carriers supported by ground troops this week carried out an exercise on the Golan Heights, seized from Syria in 1967.

*Haaretz* said the intelligence report disclosed that the Syrians have recently completed a four-year plan designed to enhance their effort to wage what was described as "a limited war" against Israel, suggesting they might try to retake the Golan.

The newspaper also claimed that tension inside Israel has been increased by the large military exercise now going on in Egypt, described as the biggest held there since the 1973 Yom Kippur war.

## Kurdish leader in talks with US

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

**AMERICA** struggled to pick up the pieces of its shattered Kurdish policy yesterday as the State Department's Robert Pelletreau arrived in Turkey for talks with the Baghdad-backed Kurdish leader, Masoud Barzani.

Washington's diplomatic initiative was designed to persuade Mr Barzani, of the Kurdistan Democratic Party, that it was not in the Kurds' long-term interest to remain allied to President Saddam Hussein, whose forces helped the Barzani faction to capture the town of Arbil from the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan led by Jalal Talabani.

American officials said that the talks were also designed to restart peace negotiations between the two Kurdish factions. "Our objective is to have Mr Barzani and Mr Talabani agree to talks about their differences peacefully," Nicholas Burns, spokesman for the State Department, said.

Western diplomats in Ankara said that British diplomats were due to attend the meeting between Mr Barzani and Mr Pelletreau. The timing of Mr Barzani's trip was welcomed by Western officials as a sign that the Iraqi leader may not yet have reimposed the iron grip over northern Iraq that had been feared two weeks ago. The initiative was sparked by a letter sent to the Americans by Mr Barzani, who said before crossing into Turkey that he "was still willing to co-operate with America if it is really serious".

America moved Patriot missile batteries into Kuwait yesterday to boost its defences against Iraqi Scud missiles. Patriots have also been installed in Saudi Arabia.

## Third World blocks UN cutbacks

FROM JAMES BONE IN NEW YORK

**PRESSURE** from Third World countries has thwarted the first attempt by the United Nations to implement large-scale layoffs to trim its sprawling bureaucracy. The UN was this month to have dismissed the first 37 staff members no longer needed because of budget cuts.

But Boutros Boutros Ghali, the UN Secretary-General, shelved the plan after Third World countries opposed it in the budget committee.

Most permanent UN staff enjoy lifetime employment, although newer staff are usually on temporary contracts. The planned layoffs were the first to flow from budget cuts meant to reduce the 10,000 staff at UN headquarters to 8,800 before the turn of the century.

□ **Taiwan setback:** Taiwan yesterday suffered a double setback when its supporters failed to win official discussion of its wish to rejoin the world body, and UN officials declined to accept a \$160,000 (£100,000) cheque because it was political and therefore breached United Nations policy. (AFP)

## THE SUNDAY TIMES



## THE CURSED LADY

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Zoë on matchmaking in LA

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## Ontario gold fever lures thousands to northern woods

FROM RICHARD CLEROUX IN OTTAWA

**AN OLD-FASHIONED** gold rush is under way in the northern Ontario woods this week as thousands of prospectors stake out mining claims on a huge tract of 2,316 square miles of newly opened government lands.

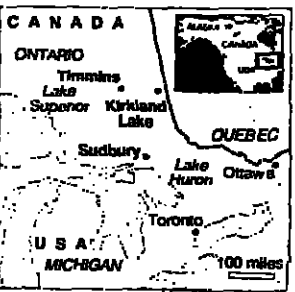
The Temagami Tract, almost a third the size of Wales, is located between Sudbury and Kirkland Lake, in northern Ontario. For the past 23 years the area has been tied up by Indian land claims. A court decision this summer set out the native portion, opening up the rest to mining and forestry.

The rush that began officially on Tuesday morning was triggered by the discovery recently of rich deposits of gold, silver, zinc, cobalt and lots of copper. It is located in the heart of the mineral-rich Canadian Shield.

Prospectors from around the world have arrived for what is turning out to be the biggest land claims rush in northern Ontario history. Each one of the many grizzled veterans of the northern woods is intent on staking out the mother lode that will make him rich beyond his wildest dreams.

Many of the prospectors are crusty-bearded rednecks who would do honour to central casting, all eager to brave the black flies and try to make their way over and under stony fallen trees and boot-sucking bogs in the black spruce and cedar forest.

The big mining companies go first class, flying in their crews in helicopters equipped



with the latest electronic communications, clattering their way into the few open spaces to land and pitch their nylon waterproof tents. Many have satellite telephones because cellular telephones do not work in the area.

The veterans resort to old lorries, to horses, mules, canoes and, in some cases, their own feet. Doug Bradley, a Vietnam War veteran, whose pilots have been ferrying crews around for the past few weeks, said: "This place is worse than Saigon in the last days of the war."

Some prospectors intend to explore the claims themselves; others hope to sell their claims to a mining company and move on to the next rush. The prospectors must be registered with the Government, pay \$25 for a licence and stake their claim in proper form. Their claims must be in 400 square-yard units, walked by foot in a clockwise direction.

They must bang wooden stakes into the ground every 400 paces and stretch white twine, notching trees as they go. Each stake bears their name and a metal tag stamped with a seven-digit number and an Ontario government seal.

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## Democrat Travelgate accuses

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## President in play for green

**PRESIDENT** Clinton has a long way to go to live up to the hopes of the American people. The Clinton administration has a long way to go to live up to the hopes of the American people. The Clinton administration has a long way to go to live up to the hopes of the American people.

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# Democrat fury as 'Travelgate' report accuses Clintons

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

CONGRESSIONAL Republicans sparked a furious partisan row yesterday by accusing the White House of mounting a "colossal" cover-up to conceal the roles of President Clinton and his wife, Hillary, in the controversial 1993 dismissal of the seven-man White House travel office.

Republicans on a House committee that has spent two years investigating the "Travelgate" scandal approved a blistering report claiming the White House obstruction had been "conducted, overseen and encouraged at the highest levels" — a clear reference to the Clintons.

The committee's Democrat minority walked out of the room after the Republican majority adopted the report, accusing their rivals of blatant political posturing just seven weeks before the presidential election.

Henry Waxman, the committee's senior Democrat, called the report "a crassly partisan smear campaign against President Clinton, Mrs Clinton and this Administration". The White House had already denounced it as "last-ditch, negative campaigning by innuendo and rumour".

Initially the Republicans released excerpts, but the full 375-page report will offer a highly detailed account of how the seven employees were dismissed four months after Mr Clinton took office, and how the White House allegedly then sought to have the FBI, Justice Department and Internal Revenue Service justify that action by suggesting financial mismanagement.

Six of the seven were exonerated and given new government jobs while Billy Dale, the office head, was acquitted on charges of embezzlement.

The report will claim Mr Clinton wanted to give the travel business to cronies including his friend Harry Thomason, a Hollywood producer, and that Mrs Clinton, contrary to her sworn denials, pressured White House aides to dismiss the seven. When the move unexpectedly aroused controversy, the White House launched a "colossal damage-control effort" to protect the President and First Lady.

The committee issued countless subpoenas over the past year to obtain White House documents relating to "Travelgate". The White House has more than once claimed executive privilege before relenting at the eleventh

hour. One subpoenaed document was a memorandum written by David Watkins, the senior administrative aide who performed the sackings, in which he claimed to have acted on Mrs Clinton's "insistence". Other subpoenaed White House documents have tended to corroborate that claim, but never conclusively.

William Clinger, the committee's chairman, claimed Mr Clinton had "engaged in an unprecedented misuse of executive power, abuse of executive privilege and obstruction of numerous investigations".

Yesterday's shouting match served to remind voters of an episode Mr Clinton would rather forget, but he appears almost invulnerable in the face of the countless allegations that have been levelled against him and his Administration. Voters know he was no saint when they elected him in 1992. They seem to accept his assertion that most of the charges are politically motivated, and to have decided to judge him only on his performance as President.

Mr Clinton would have been in much more trouble had any Democrats broken ranks and joined his Republican accusers, but none has yet

done so. One subpoenaed document was a memorandum written by David Watkins, the senior administrative aide who performed the sackings, in which he claimed to have acted on Mrs Clinton's "insistence". Other subpoenaed White House documents have tended to corroborate that claim, but never conclusively.

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Mike Tyson, the boxing champion, leaves a court in Albany, New York, yesterday, where he is being sued for \$10 million (£6.5 million) by his former trainer, Kevin Rooney, who claims breach of contract. In the suit, filed

## Tyson in \$10m court battle

eight years ago, Rooney says Tyson's late mentor, Cus D'Amato, promised him 10 per cent of the fighter's

winnings for as long as he fought. D'Amato ran a gym in New York that is now operated by Rooney. At issue is whether the promise was made and, if so, whether it was binding on Tyson, then under 18. (AP)

## Greek-Americans fail to mourn tarnished Agnew

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

SPIRO AGNEW, who died on Tuesday night aged 77, rose higher than any Greek-American in US history, but even among his own people the former Vice-President was little lamented yesterday.

To most of the 7.5 million Greek-Americans he was the man who shamed a proud community when, in 1973, he became the first Vice-President to resign over a bribery scandal. Many also refused to forgive him for an official visit to Greece in 1971 when the Colonels were in power.

George Stephanopoulos, President Clinton's senior adviser, said Mr Agnew became a non-person after his downfall. Paul Tsongas, the former senator and 1992 Democratic presidential candidate, said that "for the average Greek-American the spectre of him receiving brown paper bags of money was so horrid... that they will never forgive him".

The Greek Orthodox Church in America said Greek-Americans would "pray for his soul" but were "pained and ashamed" by his disgrace. George Davidis, for the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, said his record was "embarrassing and a shame because we want our people to be involved in public service".

Though Greek-Americans comprise barely 1 per cent of the population, and are concentrated largely in the big northeastern cities, they have produced a disproportionate number of prominent political figures including Senators Paul Sarbanes and Olympia Snowe, Michael Dukakis, the 1988 Democratic presidential nominee, and two current congressmen, Mr Tsongas and Mr Stephanopoulos.

Greeks began arriving in America in large numbers between 1900 and 1920, a second wave after the Second World War. Mr Agnew was the first to break the political glass ceiling that confronted such candidates when Richard Nixon chose him as running-mate in 1968.

Practically the only Greek to speak warmly of him yesterday was Spiros Boutas, the Mayor of Gargalianoi, the small town in southern Greece from which Mr Agnew's father, Dimitrios Anagnostopoulos, emigrated to Baltimore in the early 1900s. "He was a good man and made us proud because he was the first American of Greek origin to reach such a high position," he said.

A Greek government spokesman in Athens said: "The Government expresses condolences to the family of Spiro Agnew."

An otherwise silent White House ordered flags to be flown at half-mast.

Obituary, page 19

## President in grand play for green vote

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Clinton followed Theodore Roosevelt along a well-beaten path to the Grand Canyon yesterday and employed the eternal majesty of its scenery to assure America of his commitment to the environment.

Standing close to the spot where President Roosevelt had declared the famous canyonlands of Arizona a national monument in 1908, Mr Clinton was expected to establish a similar status for nearly two million acres of red-rock canyons and lonely plateaus in southern Utah.

The plan, designed to preserve the largest unprotected wilderness in America, was thought to include a ban on mining, road building and other development in an area between two national parks, Bryce Canyon and Capitol Reef.

Ranging from the Kaiparowits Plateau to the Grand Staircase, the 1.8 million acres have been the source of a long-standing fight between conservationists, wishing to protect the

culture and rock paintings of the Anasazi Indians, and industrial mining interests.

The decision by Mr Clinton to enter such choppy waters reflects the confidence of his poll ratings and the knowledge that he stands no chance in Utah this November. Before the announcement was made, Senator Orrin Hatch, the senior Utah representative, had made it clear "there would be hell to pay if such a monument were created".

The White House, however, portrays the decision as the final confrontation between the industrial Old West and the environmentally conscious New West. In essence the fight between Republican and Democrat.

Although Mr Clinton is certain to fail in Utah, his political advisers are convinced the greening of the President will secure him further votes in nearby states. Aides hope the symbolic connection between Teddy Roosevelt and Clinton will remain throughout the course of the election race.

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# Mothers sometimes need help

The controversy surrounding the decision of the courts to allow surgeons to deliver by Caesarean section women whose labours had become obstructed, despite their lack of consent, has inevitably aroused considerable interest among doctors and lawyers as well as the lay public. One small point which has escaped much attention is that one of the women involved had already had three Caesarean sections but her delivery had been complicated by her refusal to admit that she was pregnant, a delusion which persisted even after she was fully dilated and in the labour ward.

It is over 38 years since I helped with my first case of obstructed labour. It was during my wife's first delivery and occurred after the obstetrician had failed to deliver my son with forceps. The doctor then panicked and disappeared. The anaesthetist and I were left nonplussed in the theatre with a patient who appeared to be dying with her baby suffocating within her.

The signs and symptoms of an obstructed labour soon become all too obvious: contractions become increasingly painful, powerful and rapid, but despite this, the labour does not progress. The mother's pulse rate increases, her temperature rises and her general condition deteriorates rapidly. The lower segment of the uterus becomes progressively thinner as it is stretched over the baby's head and there is a distinct Bandl's ring between the lower and upper segment of the uterus. The uterus becomes moulded around the baby like a wet suit, and I can still remember the shape of my son's body.

As the baby only obtains the central, oxygenated, blood between the contractions it becomes progressively weaker as the contractions become more frequent and the oxygen sup-



**Dr Thomas Stuttford on Caesarean sections; the medicinal properties of fish oil; treatment for gout; and pills for the prostate**

ply more feeble. An over-stretched uterus will in time rupture, a major medical disaster, but by this time the baby will almost certainly have already died from lack of oxygen.

In the past when there was inadequate antenatal care, and such diseases as the rickets were a common sequel to malnourishment, obstructed labours were frequently seen. Now they are rare, and when they do occur the baby is rapidly delivered by Caesarean section.

When in my wife's case the obstetrician failed to return, the anaesthetist saved the day and the life of my wife and my son by organising a replacement surgeon and an immediate Caesarean section. My son was born pale, grey and limp and allegedly did not breathe for 15 minutes.

There were several sequels to this unfortunate delivery. When my wife became pregnant again she, unbeknown to me, suggested to her new obstetrician that she should have a trial of labour. Our new obstetrician smiled and gave a very short reply: "That's alright, Pam. Everybody has a right to die in the way they choose but I just don't want to be around at the time, and I'd rather it didn't take place in my hospital."

My wife has always been

extremely grateful to him not only for such a straightforward and robust opinion but for the two admirably conducted Caesarean sections she had subsequently.

After delivery my son was seen by a well-known neurologist for whom I was then working. The neurologist was equally forthright and said that it was impossible that my son could have escaped brain damage, that his intellect would inevitably be blunted, that he would probably have some limb weakness and would certainly be poorly coordinated.

The neurologist added consolingly: "There is no reason why he shouldn't grow up to be a nice enough chap and really good company." In fact his intellect, blunted or not, enabled him to win a scholarship to Oxford at a remarkably young age.

Our first errant obstetrician, now dead, soon afterwards gave up obstetrics altogether. I was told that he never fully recovered from the night's disaster. Thereafter he became a famous and very popular general practitioner. Unfortunately there was always a certain embarrassment between us whenever we met, as inevitably we did. But the 3am drama in which we both played a part so many years earlier was never mentioned.



A Caesarean section may be necessary when labour is obstructed and the lives of mother and baby are in jeopardy

## Fishing for treatments

Any contribution to the well-being of the nation which comes from the Scottish islands might be expected to have its origin in fish or whisky. In fact, a new £6-million pharmaceutical research centre has recently been opened by the Princess Royal on the Isle of Lewis — and it is investigating, among other matters, the medicinal uses of fish oil.

One of the fish-oil products in the research programme of Scotia Pharmaceuticals is for the treatment of schizophrenia. The results of the trials are not expected for some months but, if it is effective, its action will be totally different from that of other anti-psychotic drugs.

In the past ten years, the number of drugs available for the treatment of schizophrenia has multiplied but there still seems to be a reluctance to use the newer ones such as Risperdal and risperidone.

The symptoms of schizophrenia can be treated and, to some extent, the progress of the disease delayed and relapses prevented by the correct use of drugs. Doctors are by nature conservative and have a tendency to persist in prescribing older and well-tried treatments even after better ones have become available. They seem to work on the principle that when it comes to assessing the chances of their patients developing side-effects, "better the devil you know".

Unfortunately some side-effects of the older anti-psychotic drugs can be devilish. But now new anti-psychotics, including risperidone, are available which have a relatively kinder side-effect profile. The fewer the side-effects, the more likely the patient is to continue to take the drug.

Persuading schizophrenic patients to co-operate with their treatment, including taking regular maintenance therapy although they are feeling better, is an essential attribute for anyone looking after them — and having drugs which do not change patients into zombies makes the task easier.



Herring: oil applications

Successful treatment which keeps patients out of hospital is an important consideration, since the total bill for the NHS of treating schizophrenic patients is £396 million a year, much of it in-patient costs.

In an acute episode, the anti-psychotic treatment may take two or three weeks to become effective. Risperidone, as well as having less severe side-effects, also acts more quickly than do the longer-established preparations. Whatever the drugs chosen, the maximum response from them may not be achieved until after six

months or even longer. The older anti-psychotic drugs, such as Largactyl, have a heavy sedative action. Nowadays, when sedation is required, doctors often consider that it is better to give another drug separately to achieve this, rather than relying upon the side-effect of the principal anti-psychotic drug.

Patients naturally object to the "liquid cash" action of the older drugs which doctors have relied upon for the past 30 or 40 years.

Despite all the efforts of doctors and public-relations companies, as well as the efforts of sufferers and their families, schizophrenia remains poorly understood by the general public. It is still common to hear the term used to describe people with a gross personality defect, particularly if they have a Jekyll-and-Hyde temperament.

Schizophrenia is probably not a single disease but several different disorders which have similar symptoms. Together they form the most common psychotic illness.

Tragically, schizophrenia affects young people and usually starts in later adolescence or early adult life. Both sexes are affected equally but in women it tends to start slightly later than in men. Schizophrenia is more frequently found in some racial groups and in some families.

## A pain in the joints

AT A good dinner last weekend the conversation turned to gout. *Prescriber* magazine had recently reviewed the management of gout and my contribution to the party chatter was up to date.

Although gout is not caused by wining and dining too well, an acute attack can be triggered in those who are vulnerable by injudicious eating or drinking.

If the attacks of gout are frequent, and the patient has a persistently raised blood level of uric acid, or if there is any suggestion that the gout could be causing damage to either the joints or the kidneys, long term treatment with allopurinol Zyloric, if there is no contra-indication to its use, is needed. Side effects with allopurinol are rare, but occasionally it causes skin rashes or less frequently nausea. Care is needed when allopurinol is prescribed to anyone with kidney, or liver, disease.

Once the blood uric acid level has been brought, and kept, down to normal levels attacks of gout should be no more than a memory. A correct dose of allopurinol is important — the usual maintenance dose is between 200 and 300 milligrams daily.

## Pills for prostates

DOCTORS, in their enthusiasm for detecting early cancer of the prostate, have recently tended to talk less about benign prostatic hypertrophy. The journal *Medical Monitor* has helped to redress the balance by discussing the data recently collected in America from a study of US veterans.

After the age of 50 it is usual for men's prostates to start enlarging and in some cases, benign enlargement starts even earlier. As the prostate increases in volume it encroaches on the urethra, the tube leading from the bladder, so that urination becomes less easy, although more frequent, and nights are disturbed. With an enlarging prostate the urinary



Dribbling to a halt

stream is not so powerful and may be forked, some men may find it hard to start, and most difficult to finish so that they "dribble on". Occasionally the obstruction is complete and the bladder becomes painfully distended.

Treatment of a benignly enlarged prostate is usually by surgery, but in some cases surgery can be delayed by drugs, having ascertained with a blood test that there is no likelihood of malignancy.

The American study compared two groups of drugs which work in different ways: the prostate-shrinking drugs like finasteride Proscar and the prostate-relaxing drugs such as terazosin Hytrin. The evidence appears to support the view that is already gaining acceptance: that finasteride is useful when the prostate is appreciably enlarged, but otherwise terazosin is likely to be the drug of choice.



## Looking good and Kwai ACE

Eighteen months ago I took a deep breath and moved on to start a new career, in another part of the country. Quite an upheaval, but I knew I was ready for a fresh challenge.

Busy is not the word - there's been a lot of socialising with work, finding and decorating the flat has meant some late nights, and I wasn't cooking properly for myself.

One day I realised - work's coming right, the flat's looking great - but look at me!

So first it was the new diet (goodbye to all those fatty foods) and then starting regular exercise. I bought a bike - now I cycle to work every day. I also tried Kwai ACE. It's a supplement that could help keep my heart healthy, by combining garlic's benefits with added vitamins A, C and E. The ACE vitamins are antioxidants that help protect the body's tissues against free radicals.

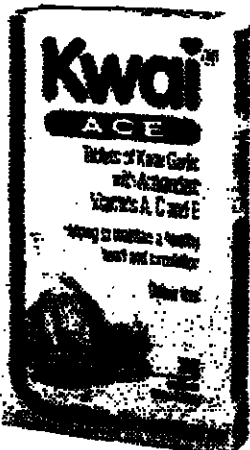
The effort has been worth it and I feel like a new person. Certainly something must be different. I met a friend from my old life in London the other day, but only after she walked straight past me without a glimmer of recognition.

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## Couples who follow on

DOCTORS when recording the history of a patient always ask for details of their parents. Frequently, the patient says that the death of their father or mother precipitated it in the other. It has been disputed whether this is a genuine observation, or merely a myth.

Recently a Finnish survey has confirmed that after the death of a spouse the remaining partner does have an increased risk of dying. The research showed that in the first week after a person's death there was a 50 per cent greater than would be expected death rate in the spouse. After six months, the rate dropped to 20 per cent in men and 10 per cent in women. Although in many cases the bereavement must have contributed to the death of the spouse the figures may be confounded by incidental causes.

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## Noreen Taylor finds the complex, entertaining Helen Mirren is still in her prime at 50

On the night before we met in Dublin, I had watched Helen Mirren skipping down the aisle in stockings, shoes in one hand, the other held high in salute to the standing ovation greeting her as she strode on stage to take her bow at the premiere of *Some Mother's Son*.

A blur of peachy blonde glamour in tight red silk, it seemed impossible to believe this was the same woman we had watched minutes before on screen, portraying the mother of an Irish hunger striker in all her drab, bleak-faced torment.

Aside from her looks, Helen Mirren at 50 is a woman with much to celebrate. A highly esteemed career that has spanned stage, film and television for more than 25 years must bestow its own long, warm glow of achievement.

Having survived the glamour-girl persona of her 20s at the RSC (you mean, when I was known as the sex queen of Stratford?) she has put that firmly to rest and won public esteem as an actress of quality and talent.

She appeared proud and happy at her achievement. As thrilled presumably as she had been the previous week in Los Angeles when awarded the Emmy for her portrayal of senior detective Jane Tennison in the television series *Prime Suspect*.

But the gushing behaviour and words deemed appropriate to public award ceremonies often prove as illusory as dry ice. Contentment and pride are apparently virtual strangers to Helen Mirren. Without hesitation she admits to being one of those people who is barely on speaking terms with either emotion.

Over morning tea in Jury's Hotel, she sits, hugging the corner of a sofa, trying to explain, struggling to understand the dilemma that haunts her. "I wake up in the morning sometimes, wanting to retire from my own ambition. 'Let me go,' I say, 'please, just let me go! Haven't I done enough, proved enough to myself? Can't I be left in peace now?'"

She continues berating herself. "Why am I still eaten up with envy at what everyone else is doing? Why always the continuous anxiety, the worry, the one eye over the shoulder wondering what's around, worrying who's been offered what? God, I wish I wasn't like that. I'd give anything to know what satisfaction feels like."

"So you see, it doesn't matter how wonderful everything looks. If it doesn't feel that way on the inside, then it doesn't exist. Take that award ceremony in Los Angeles. Do you know what I was thinking as I was standing there? Well, here you are with the Emmy in your hands. Is this it then? Is this as good as it gets?"

"Why didn't this prove to me that I'd achieved something, that I'd been recognised? None of those thoughts was going through my head. Instead there was this feeling of 'so here you are standing up here with this tatty old piece of brass, feeling like the dog's dinner'. Perhaps it's this profession which leaves you with the constant sense of wanting, ensuring you never find fulfilment."

"If you ask what my self-image of myself is, well it's that of a struggling actress. That's honestly how I perceive myself."

She unfolds herself from the sofa and walks to a table where a pot of tea has been left. I admire the high-maintenance looks: the glossy, blonde bob, the slim, erect, exercised

stay with you and not go to Australia. But with Taylor I gave work up, mostly for him, although partly because I'd become so disenchanted with Thatcher's greedy, selfish Britain.

"And it was awful, awful at first. I wasn't enjoying the bucolic Californian country life everyone imagined. I'd become the raging unsuccessful actress constantly wailing. 'No one knows me. It's all over.' Snivelling into my pillow every night, consumed with self-pity and totally disoriented."

"I'd always seen myself as one of those free-wheeling spirits, unhampered by material possessions, able to adapt to whatever environment I found myself in. Then it dawned on me. I was suffering from loss of territory. Like a bird without a branch, I was perched in Taylor's city, in Taylor's house, with Taylor's pictures on the wall, and I minded."

"That their relationship survived is, Helen admits, a testament to their love. 'I'm happier now with Taylor than I have ever been. Probably because I'm famous in America through *Prime Suspect*, so

when we go out I no longer feel like the anonymous partner. Pathetic isn't it? And I so wish it wasn't the case."

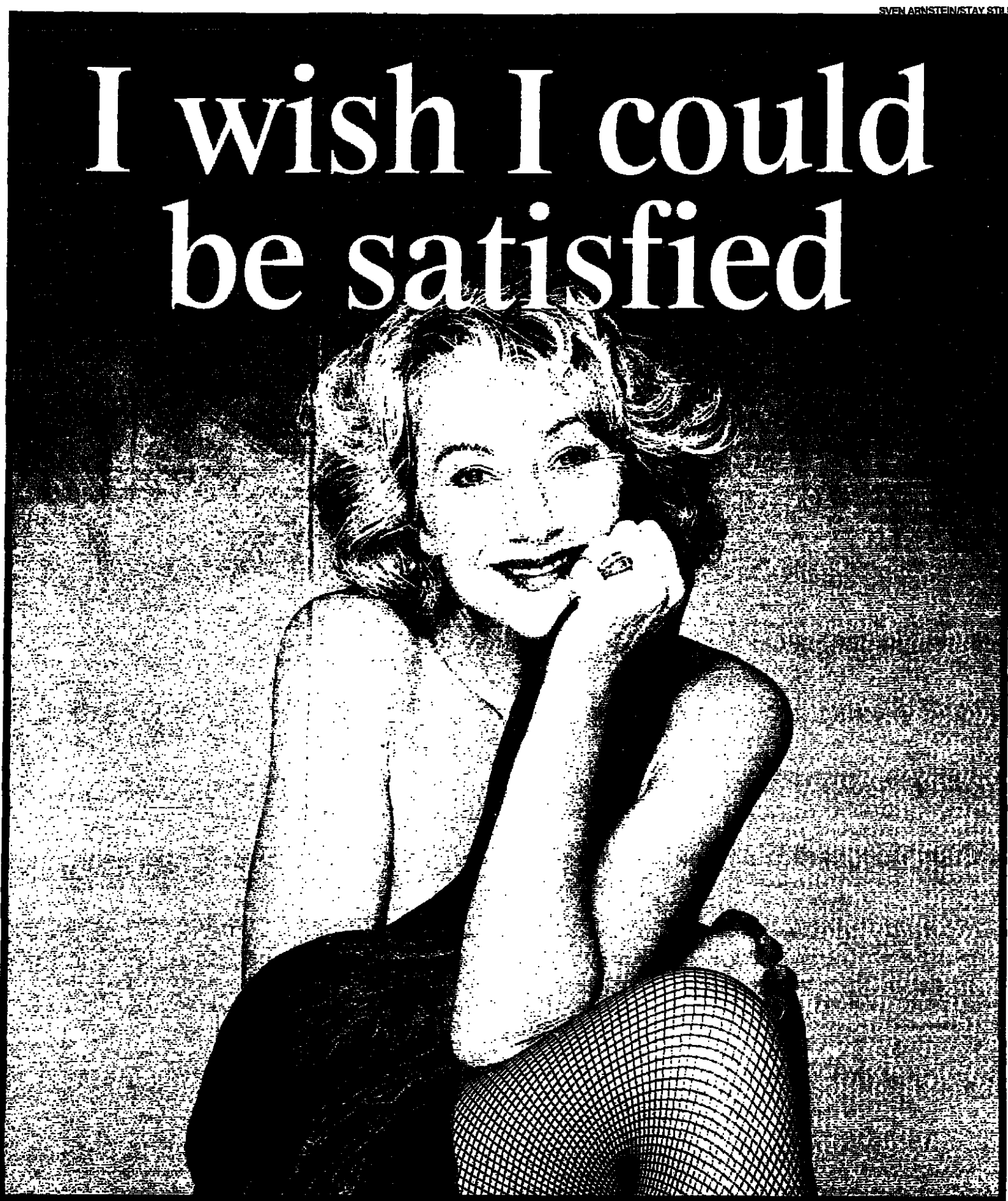
The self-knowing smile is swiftly replaced by a look of alarm as I remind her of how she once admitted to waking up early every morning in order that she and Taylor might make love. "Mmm, well time has to be made, so why not? Although I think I said that to spice up one of those *Day in the Life* interviews."

Taylor and I have been together 12 years, so of course that kind of all-devouring physical lust is not as demanding as it once was. When we met it was as though I was surfing a wave. Now I'm rolling on one. Then it wasn't at all psychologically peaceful, unlike now. I miss him a great deal when we're apart."

The sex-kitten tag lived on throughout the Seventies when Ms Mirren also became known as the film actress most likely to get her kit off without too much ado. She lived a life, it seemed, of carefree, free-wheeling modernity.

"Between 18 and 30 were the worst years of my life. I tried never to show it by just getting on with things, but during those decades I cried myself to sleep most nights simply because I felt afraid of what was ahead, of the unknown. I've talked about this to other women and found that it was similar for them."

"Odd, isn't it, when you consider that at the time you're at your physical best, in reality there is all the misery and fear of wondering what is to become of you. Yet I never



"I'm happier now with Taylor than I've ever been. Probably because I'm famous in America, so when we go out I no longer feel like the anonymous partner"

**'I wake up sometimes wanting to retire from my ambition'**

body, the lightly tanned skin. The impression is not of one who looks great at 50, but that of a rather dishy woman of no discernible age.

Are her doubts, insecurities and uncertainties not accepted as part of the creative person's package? "Maybe dissatisfaction is endemic to certain professions," she says. "Except I didn't know it was going to turn out like this. By now, I'd hoped, I'd be able to concentrate on a spiritual life, enjoy my garden, my life with Taylor in Los Angeles, and put the rigours of that early stage, the material life behind me."

About 11 years ago, Helen moved to LA to live with Taylor Hackford, the director she'd met while filming *White Knights*. When asked at the time if she was not wasting her formidable theatre talents by opting for domestic exile in La-La land, she replied firmly: "It's not a waste. It's my life. I came to realise that I wasn't going to sacrifice the whole of my life to work."

"Yes, I remember saying that." She smiles ruefully. "Taylor was the first man for whom work followed love. Not once did I say to a man, before Taylor, all right darling, I'll

wanted to live within the security of a marriage. Nor did I, or do I, want children. Despite fear, there was always the seduction of potential excitement, of a life out there. Always so much to explore."

Former partners are often, she says, "still my mates". It was one of them, Liam Neeson, who suggested she take Terry George's script of *Some Mother's Son* to a Hollywood studio.

"Predictable and depressing," she calls British press headlines alluding to "Helen's IRA movie". She says: "Of course the film's controversial, but it's a controversy that must be addressed. There is no way I would take part in a film that makes heroes out of IRA bombers. This is a story, one that is universal, illustrating human agony, the love of mothers for their sons."

The film, a fictionalised account of the 1981 hunger strike that took place in North-

**'My image of myself is that of a struggling actress, honestly'**

ern Ireland's Maze prison, when ten men died, comes from the group of Irish film producers responsible for *In the Name of the Father*.

"We British people, we've been kept in the dark about Ireland. I realised that I actually knew very little of the situation in the north, since all my information came from the British side. I'd always looked away, believing there had never been discrimination in favour of Protestants. How could discrimination have gone on in our fair-minded society? At least now the Irish have a chance to tell their own history, and, of course, we British are not going to welcome a view that paints us as less than heroic."

As for everyone's heroine, Detective Chief Inspector Jane Tennison, she says: "I'm afraid it's goodbye Jane. When work has been that rewarding, to stretch it out merely weakens the plot's timing, its dynamic. I'd hate anyone to get bored with her." Bored with the complex, entertaining Ms

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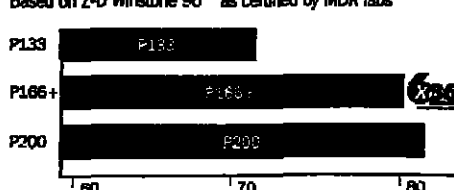
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# Europe's unholy alliance

Separatists and federalists are wrong to undermine the nation state, says John Redwood

Malcolm Rifkind's warning yesterday that European currency union could cause new tensions between European countries is timely. We have already seen a spat between Germany and Italy, where a German minister stated the obvious: that Italy would not qualify for the euro. There are also some signs of strain between Chancellor Kohl and President Chirac, as they pore over the recalcitrant numbers of their economies to see if they can steady them for the shock of monetary union. They should also heed the dangers from regional and separatist movements.

Last week saw Umberto Bossi's declaration of a new country called Padania to take Venice and the Po valley out of Italy. Many federalists will welcome Signor Bossi's media stunt. They will say it proves that a Europe of the regions is being born whether we like it or not. Signor Bossi, after all, made clear that he wants a free Lombardy in a more united Europe. He implies that he would welcome more government from Brussels, to complement no government from Rome.

Signor Bossi is the product of the plans for monetary union. Because monetary union requires high interest rates, high exchange rates and budget cuts in countries such as Italy, it spawns high unemployment. Signor Bossi speaks for all those Northern Italians who feel their economy is being held back, who believe it can do better. He offers them the wrong explanation for the right problem.

He tells them that the pasta is being taken out of their mouths by the South. If only the North did not have to pay all those extra taxes to help the South, its people would be so much better off. Freed of the shackles of paying tribute to Sicily and subsidising Campania, he tells the northern people they would soar to prosperity. Many northerners have been unhappy about the South for a long time. They warm to Bossi when he tells them they need no longer see Naples and pay.

There are Bossis all over Western Europe. The mass unemployment generated by preparations for monetary union on the Continent makes it easy to recruit to their cause. In Spain, the electorate have given the Catalan nationalists strong support. Their grouping in Parliament has turned a fairly sceptical Prime Minister Aznar into a Euro-enthusiast, as he jostles to keep their votes and bargains over how much authority to devolve to Barcelona. In Germany, the Bavarian south is reluctant to pay the bills for German union. The Basque separatists are happy with the way the European Union is going; and some Scottish nationalists adopt Bossi-type rhetoric. The irony of all this is that swapping the authority of

Madrid or Rome or Berlin for that of Brussels will not solve the problems. Only floating exchange rates, lower interest rates and fewer regulations would do that. Were Signor Bossi to succeed in his aim, the new Padania would be a fellow region of the rest of Italy, of eastern Germany, of north-eastern France, of the Portuguese and Greek regions in the new Europe. Not only would Padanians still have to pay many of the bills in southern Italy (through enlarged EC regional programmes), but they would have to shoulder the same burden for the poorer parts of Germany, France and Iberia. Far from casting off a burden, they would have assumed new ones. The alliance between regional movements and federalists would shatter, when the followers came to see they had been cheated.

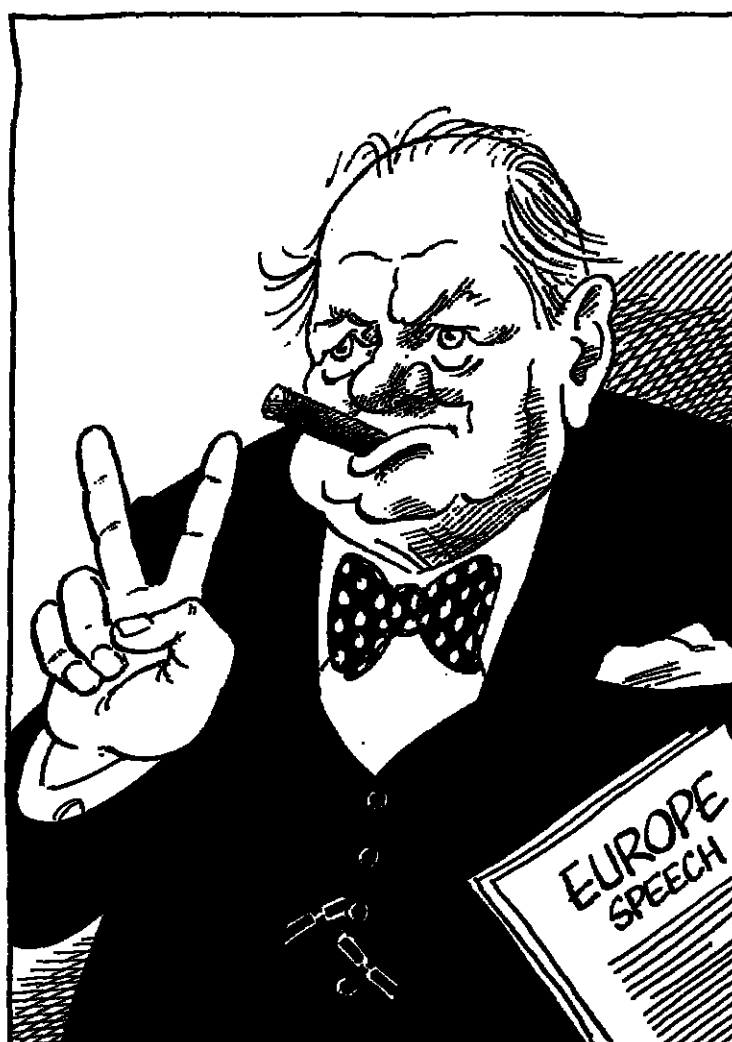
Signor Bossi is an enthusiast for the single currency. He should think carefully before pushing this argument. Join the euro, and any control over the economy of the Po valley which Italy or Lombardy once had passes to Frankfurt. Join the euro, and you are stuck with an exchange rate and an interest rate not of your choosing, which may not be right for your local economy. It may cause inflation or unemployment, and there will be nothing you can do about it.

Brussels and the regional movements will realise they are not natural allies

One day both Brussels and the regional movements will wake up to the reality that they are not natural allies. It is an alliance of convenience. At the moment both sides want to undermine nations. If they succeed, they will end up as enemies. Brussels will come to see that attacking national authority will make it more difficult, not less, to establish a new, supra-national authority at European level. Unleashing the forces of regionalism in Yugoslavia did not lead people to recreate the Habsburg Empire to solve the problem. It led to a splintering into ever smaller parts, and to elections in Bosnia revealing that many would like something smaller than Bosnia.

The regions will come to see that substituting Brussels for Rome or Madrid is not the answer. It would make them feel smaller and less significant, rather than more powerful and more in control of their own destinies. In the United States it took a voracious Supreme Court and a Civil War to establish the authority of the centre over the states; and they all shared a common language and had many common aspirations.

Europe should beware. Encouraging too much regional separatism will be dangerous to all authority, while encouraging too much central government from Brussels is the opposite of what the European economies need to survive and flourish. Malcolm Rifkind's speech was much wiser than Signor Bossi's policies.



ZURICH, 1946



ZURICH, 1996

## Last of the Brahmins

Even at Kennedy's Camelot, McGeorge Bundy shone — but Vietnam finished him and his elite

McGeorge Bundy, who died in Boston on Monday, was probably the ablest of all the young men in the Kennedy White House. He was also the last of the true Brahmins, the last person of a certain American background to exercise great power in American affairs. When he left his post as Special Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, in December 1965, it marked nearly the end of a particular tradition in American public life. Of course there have been similar people in Washington since — one could even say that President Bush was one of them — but their role has been different.

McGeorge Bundy was a proper Bostonian, who believed with few doubts in the role he had inherited, and filled it out with a remarkable intelligence. George Bush did indeed also belong to Skull and Bones when he was at Yale, but could only limp into the White House under the pretence of being a Texan. In any case, McGeorge Bundy was a Lowell on his mother's side. He was the best; he was the brightest; he was the right stuff; he was the real thing. He had those qualities that mock the fates, and at the end the fates mocked him back.

In 1969, David Halberstam, the *New York Times* journalist, wrote his bestselling book, *The Best and the Brightest*, about the Kennedy White House. He asked the question: "What went wrong?" His summary of what went wrong for McGeorge Bundy still reads convincingly. "McGeorge Bundy was a rationalist in an era which saw the limits of rationalism and which rekindled the need for political humanism... but above all he was a man of the Establishment, the right people deciding on the right policies in the right way. He believed in the capacity and right of an elite to govern on its terms."

"The [Vietnam] war changed all that; it not only tarnished his personal reputation so that his endorsement of an idea or a candidate had to be done covertly, but it saw a major challenge to the right of the elite to rule... the years had made all the other political groups in the country aware of just how little a part they played in foreign policy, and by the end of the decade, the outlanders, Negroes, women, workers were determined to play a greater role: they had reached the meat and were pressing on."

In 1961, when John F. Kennedy

appointed McGeorge Bundy to what was later to be Henry Kissinger's White House post under President Nixon, Henry Brandon was the *Sunday Times* correspondent in Washington. He was by far the best connected of the British correspondents of that time, a close friend of the Kennedy family, of the leading Democrats, and of McGeorge Bundy himself. When Henry first introduced me, Bundy was still fresh from his very successful period as Dean of Harvard, a post which he had been appointed in 1953 when he was only 34. He was a famous Dean of Harvard, who is the Dean of Harvard now?

The Kennedy White House was both glamorous and exciting. It was easy to be bewitched by Camelot, and most people were. But there was no doubting the quality of McGeorge Bundy's intelligence. He had every policy ready to mind; he seemed to have considered all the possibilities from a viewpoint that was moderate but realistic. He was not a politician himself; indeed he was a nominal Republican, and had voted for Eisenhower in 1952 and 1956. He was also a sympathetic personality, who enjoyed giving a briefing to a young foreign journalist as he must have enjoyed teaching his students at Harvard.

He came from a privileged Establishment childhood. He was something of a legend at Groton, which is sometimes called the American Eton. He graduated, *summa cum laude*, when he was only 16. As I remember him from the early 1960s, he still had that sort of youthful cleverness; he was certainly entertaining, and at Henry Brandon's dinner table was a stimulating conversationalist. Those days, with Kennedy as President, this Harvard style, a combination of intellect, liveliness, public duty, patriotism and often family tradition, seemed an attractive future for American government. It was a New England style, and McGeorge

Bundy had an element of the intellectual puritanism of the old New England society. He was himself a philo-Semitic WASP, because he thought Jews often had the qualities of energy and intelligence which he most admired, and that brought him to a number of Jewish journalists including the columnist Walter Lippmann.

After the assassination of Kennedy in the autumn of 1963, Bundy stayed on to serve Lyndon Johnson. The new President disliked and distrusted what he called "Georgetown intellectuals"; he was jealous of all those who had been close to the Kennedys. Even in our journalistic terms, Louis Heren of *The Times* was well in with LBJ, and Henry Brandon, as a friend of the Kennedys, was out. But the new President was impressed by McGeorge Bundy, by his sheer youthfulness, by his skills, by the quickness of his mind. Later the jealousies showed through, and by December 1965 Johnson was glad to see him go. Lady Bird Johnson gushed: "We're going to miss Mac like a big front tooth," but she did not mean what she said.

McGeorge Bundy went each step of the way into the Vietnam War in the Kennedy and early Johnson years. He was there when the first "advisers" were committed; he was there when Diem was overthrown and killed; he was there when, at Kennedy's death, American forces reached 16,000; he was there for the Gulf of Tonkin resolution. He did come to have his doubts, and was eventually replaced as Special Adviser by Walt Rostow, a Vietnam fanatic. Bundy was never that. Later he came to question the whole Vietnam policy. By 1967 he was opposed to the war, though he remained quiet about it, partly because of his own past involvement, partly because his brother William was in the State Department, still carrying responsibility for the policy.

William Rees-Mogg

His close friend Kingman Brewster, the President of Yale, and later Ambassador in London, made a revealing comment on what the Vietnam War meant in Bundy's career. "Mac," he said in 1968, "is going to spend the rest of his life trying to justify his mistakes on Vietnam." He did not quite do that, but Vietnam finished him as an influential public figure. His career afterwards was elevated but disappointing. The last 30 years of his life in no way reflected the promise of the first 45. He must have seen himself as a failure.

The Vietnam War did to America what the Somme did to Britain: it destroyed the confidence of the public in the competence of the elite, and destroyed the confidence of the elite in itself. The personal tragedy of McGeorge Bundy's life reflected a much broader failure of his class, of his beliefs, of his whole concept of public affairs. The wisdom of Harvard Yard and Martha's Vineyard had turned out not nearly adequate to deal with the modern world.

David Halberstam was right to emphasise the rising influence of blacks and women in the America of the 1960s: the whole politically correct culture has developed from that. He failed to see the significance of Lyndon Johnson as the first of the new southern or western presidents. Before 1964 there had never been a president from Texas, and only one from California, Herbert Hoover. Since 1964 two elections have been won from Texas, four from California, one from Georgia, and one from Arkansas. Wealth, votes and power have shifted from the north and east to the south and west, and no northern state has been able to elect a president in 30 years. The elites of Boston and New York have not lost their money, but they have lost their political clout. The Harvard culture of Kennedy and Bundy seemed in 1961 to be a vital part of the future of America; it has proved not to be. Indeed that culture now seems to be in almost complete decline in terms of power, swamped by the new forces of a changing American society. That elite did suffer from failures of imagination, of humility and humanity, as elites always do. But this was one of the world's high cultures; the steepness of its decline has been a tragedy, not just for McGeorge Bundy, but for America itself.

## Gangsta rap's Al Capone

Quentin Letts on the squalid cult of Tupac Shakur

Black is killing black in America, and the rest of the United States looks on with indifference. Two rap music gangs, staffed by gold-bejewelled heavies, are engaged in a bitter turf dispute. You need only Italianise the names of the participants — they already have the wide-brimmed wardrobes and the slick sedans — and it could be Chicago in the 1920s.

In an audacious "hit", a white Cadillac drew up alongside a convoy of 10 limousines which were transporting the "gangsta rap" star Tupac Shakur and his bulky record company boss Marion "Suge" Knight along Las Vegas's Flamingo Boulevard. A handful of men with machine-guns jumped out and pumped a small arsenal's worth of bullets into Shakur and Knight's BMW. Shakur, 25, whose records sold in their tens of millions (no fringe act, this) and who was one of the top-earning singers in the world, was fatally wounded.

The attack is thought by police to be the latest in a feud between Knight's company, Death Row Records of Los Angeles, and a bunch of New York rivals. That theory is hard to test, owing to the code of omertà being observed by those who saw the incident. The bodyguards accompanying the limousines have declined to help police with their inquiries.

Five days after Shakur died, a sizeable section of black America went in to the sort of keening routine one used to expect from toothless old women in Sean O'Casey plays. Vigils formed outside the hospital, mourning parties assembled in Shakur's childhood home in Brooklyn, and figures such as the Rev Al Sharpton and the Rev Jesse Jackson gave sorrowful tributes. Jackson, who visited Shakur in hospital before he died, said that the rapper — who had a criminal record for sodomising a young woman against her wishes — chose to "project the pain in the culture". Another street obituarist said: "He told the world how hard it is to be black in America today."

A more threatening response came from an anonymous source close to the rap world who spoke to *Newsweek* and, using a word no white dare deploy, predicted: "You will start seeing Negroes drop real soon." Stanley Crouch, a black columnist in the *New York Daily News*, courageously called Shakur "a charismatic celebrator of soun".

Gangsta rap is that genre of anti-authoritarian music which involves the performer, usually a black man, shouting close-rhymed words of rebellion into a microphone held too close to the mouth. For white folk, the lyrics often need translation. It is only then that you find out what Jesse Jackson means by "projecting the pain". Because the words are hard to understand, whites tend to excuse them as "black culture". The former American Vice-President Dan Quayle and the former Education Secretary Bill Bennett have in the past attacked Shakur and his ilk for inciting violence against the police, but their words went unheeded. Rap is black, and so untouchable.

Tupac Shakur rapped about murder, drugs and gangland rivalry, giving the impression that he approved of anti-police violence, wife-stealing and bully-boy boasting. It is a thoroughly unpleasant style, and is about as useful to aspiring young blacks as a noseful of cocaine.

Shakur may have sung about the ghetto and its miseries, but he himself had attended a respectable drama school in Baltimore, only to retreat to the underworld because it made good financial sense.

The bodyguards' refusal to cooperate with the police has been swallowed without demur by the authorities and liberal America, as has the fact that someone sprayed bullets in front of pedestrians on a crowded Las Vegas street. At the time of the attack, Shakur and Knight were riding to Knight's nightclub, called 662 (which on American phones spells out the word "MOB"). Shakur himself had survived one assassination attempt, and seemed hypnotised by crime. He had the words "THUG LIFE" tattooed on his stomach, and liked to pick fights. On the evening of the attack, he and his mates were caught by a video camera kicking and thumping a lone man in a hotel lobby. No one stopped him, just as no one stopped Al Capone.

Americans appear to have difficulty seeing the obvious: that gangsta rap is gangsters' rap and the product of a group of criminals who are dangerously out of hand. It has nothing to do with the way the majority of black Americans live — working hard for a quiet life with warm homes, educated children and a pension — but they should take some blame for not disowning the rapping mob. The Clinton Administration has uttered not a word of criticism, but that is perhaps less surprising.

It has been left to the apologists. The Rev Herbert Daughtry of Brooklyn, taking a memorial service for the lead rap star on Sunday, went so far as to compare Shakur to Martin Luther King. They were both revolutionaries against injustice, he said. It is hard to think of a greater injustice than that claim, or to imagine a black American who stood further from King's dream than the late and lamentable Tupac Shakur.

## High light

THE HOLLYWOOD muscle man and actor Arnold Schwarzenegger has bought one of New York's best-known skyscraper restaurants and intends to turn it into a cigar-smoking club for his friends.

Mr Schwarzenegger, who is seldom happier than when he has a fat stogie between his lips, paid an undisclosed fortune for the lease on the 39th floor Top of the Sixes restaurant, overlooking Fifth Avenue in Midtown Manhattan.

After decoration work it will reopen as the Grand Havana Room, for members only. It will reproduce the Grand Havana Room in Beverly Hills, a runaway success in recent years, as cigar lovers, persecuted by anti-smoking zealots, have had to retreat to private clubs. Ironically, the speakeasy-style nature of such clubs has helped to spark a revival in cigar smoking.

Membership of the Manhattan Grand Havana Room, to cost \$3,000 a year, will be by invitation only. Actor friends of Mr Schwarzenegger such as Robert De Niro, Mel Gibson and Al Pacino already belong to the Los Angeles branch, as do Meat Loaf, Whoopie Goldberg and Sharon Stone. Members

will have their own humidors, and an extensive "menu" will feature cigars from around the world.



Cigar time with Arnie

● Batsman Brian Lara named his newborn baby daughter yesterday. The ten-day-old girl will be called Sydney — after the test ground where the West Indian star hit his first Test century.

### Piquant

THE TIDE of republicanism Down Under may be turning. In what is believed to be a colonial breakthrough, a first cousin of the Queen is to marry an Aussie.

Matthew Colman, 30, is a scion of the mustang family, and his mother, Lady Mary Colman, is a niece of the Queen Mother. He is to marry Jane Johnston, 31, a Sydney girl who arranges flowers in East London. They will live near his family home in Norfolk, where he makes garden furniture.

The Queen is unlikely to go to the spring wedding in Sydney, says plummy Colman. "But we'll be having a big party back in Norfolk which we hope she will be more likely to attend."

### Arch rival

THE CONSERVATIVES are resorting to desperate measures to bolster the troops at this year's party conference. In an attempt to



recreate the tub-thumping enthusiasm of the Thatcher years, they have brought the former party chairman Lord Parkinson out of retirement.

Surprising though it may seem, Parkinson was a most popular chairman, and he has been asked to step on to the stage as chief "fundraiser" and rabble-rouser just before the Prime Minister makes his speech.

For many years, this has been Lord Archer's task. Even so, I can't believe the rumour that Archer refuses because he failed to land a ministerial job — he was after Heritage — in the last reshuffle.

● Old Labour took a turn round the floor on Tuesday night at the launch of Brian Brivati's new biography of Hugh Gaitskell. Baroness Castle for one was in unforgiving mood, castigating Gaitskell's "cold calculating intolerance" towards the rumbustious Bevan — whom she called "a political poet, with a vision which inspired people, and a Churchillian command of language". The best thing she could say about Gaitskell, on the other hand, was that he was "a damn good dancer".

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### Doleful

THE DEATH of Spiro Agnew, Nixon's disgraced Vice-President, could not have come at a worse time for Bob Dole and the Republican Party. As the most senior Republican, Dole will have to put in an appearance at Agnew's funeral, which is unlikely to be as forgiving an affair as Nixon's.

Not only will Agnew's death revive memories of an ignominious time in the Republicans' history, it will take a day out of Dole's frantic campaign for the presidency.

### Tow bad

MENTION the magazine *Country Life* to Princess Margaret's son Viscount Linley and the response may be a low growl — followed perhaps by a baring of teeth. On Tuesday night, he attended the Laurent Perrier Country Life Awards in his capacity as a judge.



Within minutes of arrival he appeared distracted, saying he had lost his wife Serena, who had popped out to fetch something from the car — a handsome Audi convertible. Not long afterwards, he disappeared in the direction of his motor. He found his wife, but the car had been towed away.

I last saw them getting into a taxi. "Paddington car pound please," shouted Linley, before disappearing into the night to hand over his £135.

P.H.S





## RIFKIND'S EUROPE

A slow awakening to the dangers of monetary union

Not long ago, British politicians latched onto the concept of flexibility in EU policy-making, seeing it as the passport to a European Union in which Britain could feel at ease. By suggesting that EU members could agree to differ over the pace and intensity of European integration, it appeared to promise Britain an escape from the battered metaphors of catching trains. Increasingly, however, it has become apparent that France and Germany see flexibility as a way of brushing dissent aside and pressing ahead with policies which would make Britain's position in Europe even more uncomfortable. Yesterday in Zurich, Malcolm Rifkind admitted the danger and attempted to head it off by defining flexibility. Decisions, he said, must be "open to all, agreed by all".

The catalyst that has quickened anxiety in London is monetary union. The closer EMU looms, the more questionable the protections afforded by flexibility appear. The opt-out secured by John Major at Maastricht was a model of flexibility in operation; but no opt-out can be guaranteed to shield Britain from the worst effects of a single currency on Europe. However great may be the advantages of Britain remaining outside the euro-zone, the gain is relative and must be set against two broader dangers.

The first is that deflation and the attendant ills of high unemployment in France and Germany, Britain's most important European markets, will damage British exporters both directly and by feeding protectionist pressures. French threats earlier this year of penalties to prevent those outside EMU "polluting the system" and profiting from "unjustified windfalls" are probably only a mild precursor of quarrels to come. EMU could unpick the single market and put Europe at an even greater competitive disadvantage against global competition than it already suffers.

The second danger, which is even more important, is that the practical effect of EMU could be precisely the contrary of its proclaimed purpose of promoting political as well as economic cohesion. Among EMU members, Germany's demands for tight

fiscal discipline are likely to poison relations with its neighbours. In addition, even if France persuades Germany to fudge the Maastricht convergence criteria, half the EU's existing members, and almost all the dozen countries in the queue to join, will fail to come near to qualifying for years to come. A single currency that split the EU between insiders and outsiders could do enormous damage to Britain's wider interest in the security and prosperity of the European continent. Mr Rifkind stressed its potential to deepen political conflict among the Governments and peoples of Europe yesterday, arguing that "such a divided EU was not what the Founding Fathers had in mind". Europe's history, he said, was rich in examples of the failure to learn that political co-operation developed organically, and that efforts to force the pace would founder on popular resistance.

EMU, as Mr Rifkind said, is not an optional ornament of European Union, as the Schengen accord on frontier controls could be said to be: it is "a massive change in the concept of what the EU was meant to be about", involving the most fundamental policy decisions taken by any government. The Foreign Secretary is a reliable political weathervane. If a consensus is indeed developing in the Cabinet that EMU will be a disaster for Britain, whether or not it joins, the Government has until 1998 to build a coalition within the EU against bending the rules to allow a small group of countries to go ahead.

This will be enormously difficult: the habit of thinking that if France and Germany want something to happen, it is unstoppable, is deeply ingrained. But when the final decision is taken in the spring of 1998, it must be by qualified majority. Britain keeps its right to vote, whether or not it has ruled out joining itself and, with the support of one other large EU country and a couple of small ones, could mount a blocking minority. Mr Rifkind did not attack the principle of EMU yesterday. To win allies among those who would be consigned to Europe's outer rim, he does not need to. Fears about how it will work in practice should be motive enough.

## TEACH HOW TO TEACH

This new curriculum must not be sabotaged by ideologues

Improving the skills of teachers is a painfully slow process which starts with teacher training and reaches eventually into schools. Yet standards in education depend crucially on the quality of the teaching profession. Given the long time lag between reform and results, the reform of teacher training should have been the first item on the Conservative agenda. Instead, it has been the last.

Because it has taken 17 years for the Government to prescribe a sensible curriculum for teacher training colleges, a whole generation of children has suffered. But at least the next generation should gradually, as the new recruits trickle through, gain from the rigour that the curriculum is intended to instil.

For instance, it is extraordinary that 40 per cent of new teachers claim that they are ill-equipped for the classroom at the end of their training. They have not been properly taught how to teach. Often they have been introduced to an array of techniques, without guidance as to which works best, and are left to make up their own minds on the basis of ideology rather than evidence.

As well as understanding which are the best methods, teachers must themselves be well schooled in the subjects that they have to teach. In the second half of primary school, in particular, there is a shortage of subject teachers in important areas such as mathematics. All teachers also need a sound grasp of spelling, syntax and grammar if they are to impart that knowledge to their pupils. No students should be allowed to pass teacher training examinations unless they fully understand the rules governing

the use of English. Because the current generation of students was taught by teachers who often themselves did not value grammar and spelling, much remedial work needs to be done.

The other area that teacher training courses must address is the curse of low expectations. "Could do better" is these days the least likely phrase to be seen on a primary school report. The emphasis instead is on boosting children's self-esteem by making them feel that any level of achievement deserves to be praised. Teachers should be trained to assess potential, and then to ensure that pupils live up to it, whatever their social background.

If this new curriculum is to work, it must be based on academic evidence from Ofsted, the inspection agency, on which teaching methods are most effective. The precedent of the national curriculum for schools suggests that the educational establishment likes to sabotage commonsense ideas for ideological ends. It is, therefore, cause for some concern that the Teacher Training Agency will be in charge of drawing up the new curriculum. Gillian Shephard, the Education Secretary, should not give approval to it until she is convinced that the curriculum gives highest priority to teaching methods, such as phonics for reading, that have been shown by inspection evidence to work best.

Teacher training colleges must become pragmatic rather than ideological institutions, focusing on effective pedagogy rather than egalitarian ideals. Mrs Shephard's job now is to translate a worthy political intention into reality against a determined and cunning opposition.

## THE BLUE ORANGES

Queen Beatrix is not afraid to speak her mind

The House of Orange has produced three generations of popular, strong-minded women who have symbolised the redoubtable spirit of The Netherlands, in war and peace. Their charisma has ensured that this dynasty, implanted in a country whose libertarian spirit would otherwise make it a natural republic, remains one of the most secure in Europe. Britain retains a warm memory of Queen Wilhelmina, the heroic voice in exile of her embattled nation. Her daughter, Juliana, seemed in the postwar years the epitome of the modern monarch, for whom the very phrase the "bicycling queen" was invented. And Queen Beatrix, queen" was invented. And Queen Beatrix, more regal than her mother, has reintroduced a degree of distance and moral authority that is, perhaps, a necessary corrective to the demotic informality of monarchs on wheels.

Yet the House of Orange is now running into unaccustomed criticism, and discreet voices are asking whether the Queen is overstepping her severely circumscribed constitutional role. She has spoken out against the legalisation of homosexual marriages: she has called on her Government to do more to clean up the environment; and, more controversially, she has insisted on having the Dutch Ambassador to South Africa removed before she pays a state

visit because she disapproves of his living with a woman who is not his wife.

The Dutch, notoriously liberal in sexual matters, have been taken aback by this whiff of Victorianism. It looks like a case of throwing stones in the royal glasshouse. For the Dutch royal family has also had its share of scandal and bad luck — not on the scale of the House of Windsor but enough to strain the limits of popularity. The Queen's father, a notorious philanderer, was publicly disgraced by the Lockheed affair; her husband, Prince Claus, suffered depression; and her son, Crown Prince Willem-Alexander, has been sowing wild oats by the bushel.

Queen Beatrix has clearly understood, however, that her own position must be above reproach: indeed, she is staking out the moral high ground not only to remind the Dutch of the strong national streak of Calvinist thinking but to articulate some of the older, more formal and more conservative virtues that have been overshadowed by postwar egalitarianism. The same, indeed, has been the case with Queen Silvia of Sweden, who has been outspoken in criticising her country's tolerance of child pornography. But if continental monarchies have less pomp and protocol than our own, they have shown that informality is no guarantor of universal popularity.

## Swiss bankers and fate of Nazi gold

From Mr John Leatham

Sir, It seems that the Gordian knot securing the gold pillaged by the Nazis (reports, September 14 and 17) will stay tied so long as there is talk of restoring the gold to its original owners or their successors. Is it not time to admit that agreement between possessors and claimants, whether individuals or states, is patently a phantom — and total disclosure no less?

A solution which might appeal to troublesome consciences, and perhaps has the merit of historical justice, would be to transfer the gold to the United Nations and other international organisations that exist to succour today's and tomorrow's refugees from man-made horrors.

Claimants might abandon their claims, however sound, and possessors of the hoards relinquish their hold over them, however secure, in the knowledge that the beneficiaries will be those suffering from man's continuing inhumanity to man.

Yours sincerely,  
JOHN LEATHAM,  
Gatopoulou 9,  
152 37 Philothei, Greece.  
September 18.

From Professor Alan Thompson

Sir, Mr Malcolm Rifkind is an able and authoritative negotiator. During his current visit to Bern he could help to redress a great injustice to the descendants of the Holocaust victims if he were able — as Mr H. H. Marcus suggests (letter, September 13) — to persuade the Swiss to lift banking secrecy on accounts in which there has been no movement for 50 years.

Changes in banking procedures and secrecy should be undertaken only in exceptional circumstances. The massive scale of the murder, torture and theft which characterised the Holocaust seems to me to justify such changes.

Yours faithfully,  
ALAN THOMPSON,  
11 Upper Gray Street, Edinburgh 9.  
September 18.

From M André Maillard

Sir, I was shocked by your burst of indignation against Swiss bankers, who are supposed to lack any morality (leading article, "Tainted gold", September 11). It showed a complete lack of understanding for the real situation of Switzerland during the Second World War.

All the documents available will be released, both on gold transactions and on private deposits, and the joint commission set up earlier this year by the World Jewish Congress and the Swiss banks, and headed by Mr Paul Volcker, will report on the latter in due course. But some of the facts and the background are already established.

Most of the gold sold to us by the Germans (about 80 per cent, it seems) came from the Reichsbank to the Swiss National Bank in the form of ingots marked "Reichsbank" and backdated. How could the Swiss have determined its origin?

Furthermore, the Reichsbank was the central bank of the only German Government then in existence, and German forces were a threat all around Switzerland. Should Swiss bankers have behaved like torpedoes brandishing their capes? This was certainly not the policy of the British until 1939.

In 1940, if not sufficiently prepared, Switzerland was at least better so than any other country on the Continent, which is the main reason why it escaped invasion. Do you resent that? Besides, the Swiss press (particularly the *Neue Zürcher Zeitung*, the newspaper of the Zürich financiers) was prompter than the British and very persistent in denouncing the Nazi regime. As Winston Churchill attested, Switzerland was among the most courageous of all European small countries.

Gold known to belong to another country was given back after the war. But what of the gold that the Bank of England still owes to Albania?

Yours faithfully,  
A. MAILLARD  
(Swiss Ambassador to Saudi Arabia,  
1978-83; Turkey, 1983-87;  
Luxembourg, 1987-91),  
15 Chemin de Plana,  
CH-1223-Cologny, Switzerland.  
September 14.

## Counter argument

From the Reverend F. J. McCarthy

Sir, For *latrunculus*, the suggested description of the Roman board game recently excavated at Stanway, Essex (report and photograph, September 6), the Lewis and Short Latin dictionary gives meanings of "highwayman, robber, freebooter, brigand" as well as "man or pawn in draughts or chess".

Can I suggest that "Cops and Robbers" might be a better name than "Little Soldiers"?

Yours faithfully,  
F. J. MCCARTHY,  
St Joseph's College, Mill Hill, NW7.  
September 16.

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Letters to the Editor should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be sent to a fax number — 0171-782 5046.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

## Slavery and the image of Liverpool

From Ms Marika Sherwood

Sir, It is difficult to understand the concern of historian Fritz Spigel with the image of Liverpool ("Heritage dispute over Liverpool's slavery tours", report, September 9). An historian, I thought, tries to uncover and interpret facts, not create images.

I doubt that slaves were sold in sufficient numbers in Liverpool to merit iron rings on the Pier Head, simply because slaves would have fetched much higher prices as plantation labour in the Americas. But this does not exonerate Liverpool from dependence on slavery.

You also report another local historian, Mr David Hollett, as stating that the trade in Africans "only" represented 8.8 per cent of the city's trade; but your report does not reveal the exact year or period during the 100 years of the city's legal involvement in the trade (which ended in 1807) to which this figure applies.

Liverpool continued to build and equip slaving vessels until 1801 and built warships for the slave-holding confederate states during the US Civil War. Until slavery was finally abolished in the 1880s much of Liverpool's trade was with slave-holding countries in the Americas. The city's imports and exports both sustained the institution of slavery until just over 100 years ago.

Yours sincerely,  
MARIKA SHERWOOD  
(Research Fellow,  
University of London,  
Institute of Commonwealth Studies,  
28 Russell Square, WC1.  
September 9.

From Mr C. Grisenthwaite

Sir, In 1937, as a seven-year-old schoolboy, I was taken by my father to see the chain rings and slave scratchings in the old-fashioned arcade of Liverpool's Gores Piazas, demolished in 1947, at the Pier Head. At the

time of their demolition the widely held suspicion was that these relics were an embarrassment to some of the then large shipping dynasties.

It was the shrewd Liverpool merchants, undercutting their Bristol counterparts paying lower wages to captains and crews, which made Liverpool the dominant trader in the sad business of slavery. Today these practices would be applauded as good management practice.

Let me quote William Roscoe, the great Liverpool poet, educationist and philanthropist, from *The Wrongs of Africa* (1787):

Come thou, and weep with me substantial ills,  
And execrate the wrongs that Africa's sons,  
Torn from their natal shore and doomed to bear  
The yoke of servitude in western climes...

Yours faithfully,  
C. GRISENTHWAITE,  
Longfield House,  
196 High Street,  
Boston Spa, West Yorkshire.  
September 9.

From the Lord Mayor of Liverpool

Sir, The caption to the photograph which accompanied your report states that it shows a chained figure on a central Liverpool monument "said to reflect the slave trade".

In fact the monument in question, situated in the square at the back of Liverpool Town Hall and erected in 1813, commemorates Admiral Lord Nelson. The chained figures around its base represent prisoners of war taken at Nelson's four great victories of The Nile, St Vincent, Copenhagen and Trafalgar, and are in no way connected with the slave trade.

Yours sincerely,  
FRANK DORAN,  
Lord Mayor,  
The Town Hall, Liverpool 2.  
September 12.

## Advantage for 'stalking' defendant

From Mr Stephen Parish

Sir, It was disturbing to read that a defendant accused of "stalking" was permitted to leave the dock and sit in the lawyers' benches because he was defending himself ("In terror of the accused", Law, September 17).

The advantage of the dock in our system of justice is that it is non-discriminatory: all accused persons sit there, whether charged with murder or shoplifting, be they in custody or on bail. The occasional exception — such as last year's Maxwell trial, at which there was no dock in the courtroom — is reserved for complicated frauds that require defendants to be with their lawyers.

What should never happen is for a

defendant to be given special privileges simply because he chooses to represent himself. Quite apart from the possible intimidation of the witness, it may raise the defendant's status in the eyes of the jury. Other defendants, who are represented, will appear to occupy an inferior position in the dock.

It is one thing to ensure that a defendant in person should be under no unnecessary handicap. It is quite another to confer upon him a positive advantage.

Yours faithfully,  
STEPHEN PARISH,  
2 King's Bench Walk,  
Temple, EC4.  
September 17.

## Business and Labour

From the Chairman of the Rainbird Group plc

Sir, It is quite clear that Lord Hanson (article, September 10) has touched upon very sensitive issues, judging by the correspondence generated from shadow ministers and others in response to his remarks (letters September 12, 14, 16, 17).

As chairman of a family business I totally endorse his remarks on the Labour plans for the social chapter. The relative economic success that we currently enjoy is based on our competitiveness, which would be lost if we signed up to something that Germany and France slavishly adhere to, despite the adverse effect on their economies.

The level of unemployment in those two countries, far in excess of that in the UK, suggests that their example is not one to follow.

Labour's plans for education and training, with talk of "windfall" taxes, suggest yet more money would be put into training. This is not necessary. The success of the training and enter-

prise councils (Tecs), for instance, is testament to this, as witnessed by figures released on September 10 showing yet further increases in performance by these bodies.

When Tecs were formed in 1990 the cost to the Exchequer was £3 billion. This figure has been halved, with performance improving year over year ever since. These councils are cost-effective and part of a long-term plan which is now unfolding and beginning to show the rewards.

The work that Tecs do is not done in isolation but is an important ingredient of the drive towards increased competitiveness and the development of local economies.

The way forward, as Lord Hanson advocates, is to see that the £38 billion already spent on education is properly and wisely spent. The Tecs are a good example of how this can be done.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER RAINBIRD,  
Chairman,  
Rainbird Group plc,  
Rainbird House,  
Warescot Road, Brentwood, Essex.  
September 17.

## Driving bans

From Mr Michael W. Brown, JP

Sir, You report moves to make driving disqualifications imposed domestically in member countries applicable in all other EU countries (September 14). In fact there is a similar anomaly nearer to home which needs to be dealt with first.

Last month the Sedgemoor Bench in Somerset disqualified a defendant for the offence of refusing a specimen. The defendant was a native of and resident in Northern Ireland.

In connection with the need to make the implications of the sentence of dis-

qualification perfectly clear to the defendant, the court was advised that any ban which it imposed would, under the law as it stands, apply only in Great Britain — for once used with its correct meaning of England, Scotland and Wales.

In other words the defendant, although disqualified in mainland Britain, was entitled to return to Northern Ireland and drive there. Presumably the same is true in reverse.

Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL BROWN,  
Marrick, 5 Hendon Close,  
Highbridge, Somerset.  
September 14.

## Pest-resistant genes

From Professor J. M. Lynch

Sir, The interesting account by Nigel Hawkes ("At war over the field of genes", Mind and Matter, September 9) of the potential risks of the genetically modified American maize which carries the insecticidal *Bacillus thuringiensis* gene makes no reference to another potential risk on the use of this gene in plants.

The life of chemical crop-protection agents is usually limited by resistance building up in the target pest population. Hitherto there has been very little evidence of resistance building up

to biological agents, due to the pest's limited exposure to the agent.

However, the problem of carrying the gene in the plant is that no control over its expression is yet possible: so the insect population is continually exposed to the toxin. Resistance readily develops, jeopardising the use of this agent in crop protection. This is an important factor in considering the overall risk/benefit analysis of the exciting new developments in biotechnology.

Yours faithfully,  
J. M. LYNCH,  
University of Surrey,  
School of Biological Sciences,  
Guildford, Surrey GU2 5XH.

## Taking sides on Ford vs Clarke

From the Reverend Ian Gregory

Sir, The rattle of pots and kettles provides an apt background to the spat between Anna Ford and Kenneth Clarke on the *Today* programme (report, September 17). She was certainly over the top in her treatment of the Chancellor, but then, broadcasting media journalists are merely out to impress one another with the ferocity of their investigations. Otherwise they fear the fate of Peter Hobday, cast into the outer darkness for being simply too civilised.

But it ill behoves Dr Mawhinney to blast about all this. How he and Kenneth Clarke can sponsor the vicious evil eyes posters, then complain about people being rude to them, is beyond belief.

How can we encourage our children to engage in rational debate about serious issues when politicians and radio starlets are constantly engaged in ego-boosting conflict over them?

Yours faithfully,  
IAN GREGORY  
(Founder, The Politic Society),  
18 The Avenue, Basford,  
Newcastle, Staffordshire.  
September 17.

From Mr Oscar Beuselink

Sir, What a reflection Dr Mawhinney casts on QC Cabinet ministers in complaining about unfairness in their treatment by BBC interviewers. Surely, by background and training, the likes of Mr Clarke do not need the help of a man who is not paid professionally, as Mr Clarke has been, to argue other people's cases.

Personally, I would be more impressed if BBC interviewers terminated peremptorily all interviews when politicians of whatever party fail to answer questions fairly put and instead answer another question of their own making.

Yours faithfully,  
O. BEUSELINK,  
Davenport Lyons,  
1 Old Burlington Street, W1.  
September 17.

From Miss Dorothy Millham

Sir, I read your report on Anna Ford and the Kenneth Clarke interview with interest. It just shows it's all about perception. I heard the interview and thought the exact opposite.

Ms Ford hardly seemed able to get a word in edgewise. Mr Clarke ploughed on regardless. I thought they sounded very uncomfortable with each other and she was rather out of her depth.

Yours faithfully,  
DOROTHY MILLHAM,  
37 Gloucester Road, SW7.  
September 17.

From Mr James Leigh

Sir, Good for Anna Ford — usually the most lightweight of interviewers. Ken Clarke can look after himself.

He made a mistake. So what? Thank God there are gifted and fluent politicians (too few) who can. Dr Mawhinney is far too thin-skinned. Write it off and get on with it. Labour are bound to make a gaffe tomorrow.

Yours faithfully,  
JAMES LEIGH,  
Room E. H. E. Ward,  
Chelsea and Westminster  
Hospital, SW10.  
September 17.

## Housman library

From Professor Norman Page

Sir, Your leading article today marking the centenary of A. E. Housman's *A Shropshire Lad* is a reminder that when *Last Poems*, the only other collection of his poetry to be published in his lifetime, appeared in 1922, it was greeted on the morning of publication by a *Times* leader. It would be interesting to know how many other volumes of verse, before or since, have received a similar accolade.

Housman, who took a delight beyond even a textual editor's call of duty in drawing attention to errors in printed sources, would have pounced on the statement that he bequeathed "a collection of pornography to his university". Such a bequest would have been entirely out of character.

What happened was his library was sold after his death on the instructions of his literary executor (his brother, Laurence), but the works in question were not included in the sale; they were discreetly donated to Cambridge University Library, where they repose to this day without any formal indication of their original ownership.

Yours faithfully,  
NORMAN PAGE,  
23 Braunston Road,  
Oakham, Rutland.  
September 18.

## Road to fame

From Mr Paul Grimshaw

Sir, I was interested to read of Elaine Paige's success on *Broadway* (report, September 14). I note she gained acclaim in "the title role" of *Sunset Boulevard*.

If Ms Paige has the versatility to portray a Los Angeles thoroughfare, she is indeed to be congratulated. Perhaps she could follow up this triumph in the title role of *42nd Street*.

I am, yours faithfully,  
PAUL GRIMSHAW,  
Morgan's Orchard,  
Claremont Terrace, York.







# SPIRO AGNEW

He is survived by his wife, their three daughters and a son.

be ignominiously wrested from them.

It was a noble sight to see so much just indignation in the public mind; and we could not help thinking, as Mr. KEMBLE and Mrs. HIDDONS stood at the stage, carrying some of the 3000 copies of the *Traveller*, that it was to see this vanity and to pay an Italian singer, that the public were screwed. They, however, resented the imposition last night as became them; and the only resource they now have is, as the Proprietors of the Theatre take no notice of them, to take no notice of the Proprietors of the Theatre. Let the company play to empty benches: let the public agree to desert the Theatre; and we shall see which can do without the other the longest. The Proprietors must be down on conditions; all prices will be rising up on all sides; and they had better gracefully give up what in the end will be ingenuously wrested from them.

Please include in all correspondence:  
signature of either one of the parties concerned or a parent;  
a daytime and home telephone number and address.  
Advertisements for the Court Page must be received two  
working days prior to publication and are accepted subject  
confirmation.

The play then began, and when Mr. KEMBLE again made his appearance, the sense of the house could not be mistaken; and it grew more and more decidedly adverse to the imposition, to the end of the whole performance both of play and farce. We believe not a single word of either was heard by the most acute listener in the house: hisses, groans, yells, imprecations, burles, coughs, shouts, cries of "Ooh, ooh, ooh," "No, no, no," "No, no, no," "Impudent cut-purse!" &c. served to vary, but nothing could add to, the clamour of the house, which was painfully kept up whenever there was always at its highest whenever Mr. KEMBLE was there. During all this time, that Gentleman treated the audience with the coolest neglect, and, as did all the rest of the performers, went through his part as if he never had been playing to a hissing and imprecating audience. When his first appeared, he intended, to speak the address, a paper was handed to him from the pit: he glanced at it, and, as we suppose, found it was not a friendly one; for he blushed, and huddled it into his pocket. This was all that happened in the paper way. The audience grew indignant at his conduct, and, when he came to read him out for peculiar disparagement. In the second act of the play, the Pit came to a



## Swiss cut the cost of skiing for Brits

By RONALD GRIBBLE

SWISS ski resorts have thrown down the gauntlet to Austria, France and Italy and are offering cut-price deals and free ski passes to woo the British back to the slopes.

After years of rising prices and fierce competition from rivals, which led to a sharp drop in the number of UK visitors, the Swiss are turning the clock back and launching value-for-money holidays at its resorts below the Eiger, Mönch and Jungfrau peaks.

Last week Switzerland Tourism flew a party of British ski writers and tour operators by Air Engadina executive jet from London's City Airport to Berne for a summit meeting at Jungfraujoch, the 11,333ft-high Top of Europe complex in the Alps.

Urs Eberhard, UK director of Switzerland Tourism, told the conference: "We have to change the perception that Switzerland is expensive. UK tourists think that now that France is expensive, then prices in Switzerland must be sky high. But if you compare Verbier with Méribel, the prices are about the same."

Mr Eberhard announced that Swiss tourism had joined forces with seven UK tour operators - Crystal, Inghams, Kuoni, Plus Travel, Powder Byrnes, Swiss Travel Service and Thomson - to promote discount deals in the Jungfrau region this season.

Nick Rudge, general manager of Swiss Travel Service, said: "Swiss Air has just introduced a new early flight from Heathrow to Zurich saving £60 per person on Christmas and New Year skiing packages and allowing travellers to ski on the first day."

"Other special offers include a day's free heli-skiing in Zermatt and a helicopter sightseeing trip around the Matterhorn."

Lee Ormesher, general manager of Thomson ski, lakes and mountains holidays, said that Thomson was offering early-booking savings and free ski passes on a first-come, first-served basis.

Inghams and Kuoni are both launching promotions for skiing and snowboarding in Switzerland next month, with competitions to win free holidays and ski passes.

Crystal said it was offering chalet holidays from £359 a person. The same holiday starts from £239 by self-drive, including Le Shuttle crossing.

## Challenge to Hong Kong

By DAVID CHURCHILL

SINGAPORE is stepping up its efforts to become the leading gateway to South East Asia in the wake of the Chinese takeover of Hong Kong next summer.

The country's tourism authorities have launched an initiative called Tourism 21 to persuade cruise passengers, business travellers and holiday shoppers that Singapore is not as bland or authoritarian as many people believe.

The strategy is based on developing links with tour operators to establish Singapore as the main stopover point for Far East travellers from the UK. By preserving aspects of the country's history and developing new sporting and cultural activities, the tourism authorities hope visitors can be persuaded to stay for longer.

## Hotels suffer as guests turn to theft

By TONY DAW

A GROWING army of kleptomaniacs is alarming British hoteliers, according to *The Good Hotel Guide 1997* published this week. Encouraged by the availability of free sewing kits and bottles of shampoo, guests are starting to take larger objects and to fill mini-bar bottles with cold tea.

In his introduction to the guide, Hilary Rubinstein, the editor, says that hotels expect guests to help themselves to "freebies" such as tubes of hair conditioner, but clearly not face flannels or books, let alone hair dryers. He writes: "I hate coat-hangers which cannot be removed from the wardrobe but recognise that congenial pilfering of such objects is an expensive annoyance to hoteliers."

Mr Rubinstein reports an incident that occurred when a guest was saying goodbye to Brian Sack of Sharrow Bay, Ullswater, a hotel that has appeared in the annual guide since it was first published 20 years ago.

The guest opened her handbag and inadvertently revealed three hotel ashtrays. Mr Sack relates that he nonchalantly removed two, saying: "I think one is acceptable, but three is just a bit greedy."

Richard Sherwood of Ashwick House, Dulverton, Somerset, has found an ingenious method of minimising his losses by putting this notice in rooms: "We hope you appreciate all the small touches which we have added around the hotel."

He adds: "Unfortunately, not everybody leaves things for future guests to enjoy. The favourite items are soap dishes, handmade toilet-roll holders, Laura Ashley sewing kits, napkin rings, hair dryers, torches, telephones and hot-water bottles."

"Superior rooms have minibars. We have learnt that you need a razor blade to cut the seal around a mini vodka bottle. You can then drink the contents and fill it up with water. For whisky and rum, it is a little more difficult, but you can fill the bottles with unmliked tea. It has happened in this hotel."

The guide's top ten awards include hotels where the prices are so high that guests might think this sort of behaviour is acceptable, including Hartwell House, Aylesbury; its double rooms start at £160 a night. The guide also features more modest establishments.

Lynne Anderson's guest house at Crookham in Northumberland, where dinner, bed and breakfast starts at £36.50, wins the award for best budget hotel in the North of England and the Ivy House Hotel in Braithwaite, Cumbria, where the price for the same facilities is £49.95, is praised for the best of Lakeland hospitality.

● *The Good Hotel Guide 1997*, Ebury Press, £14.99.

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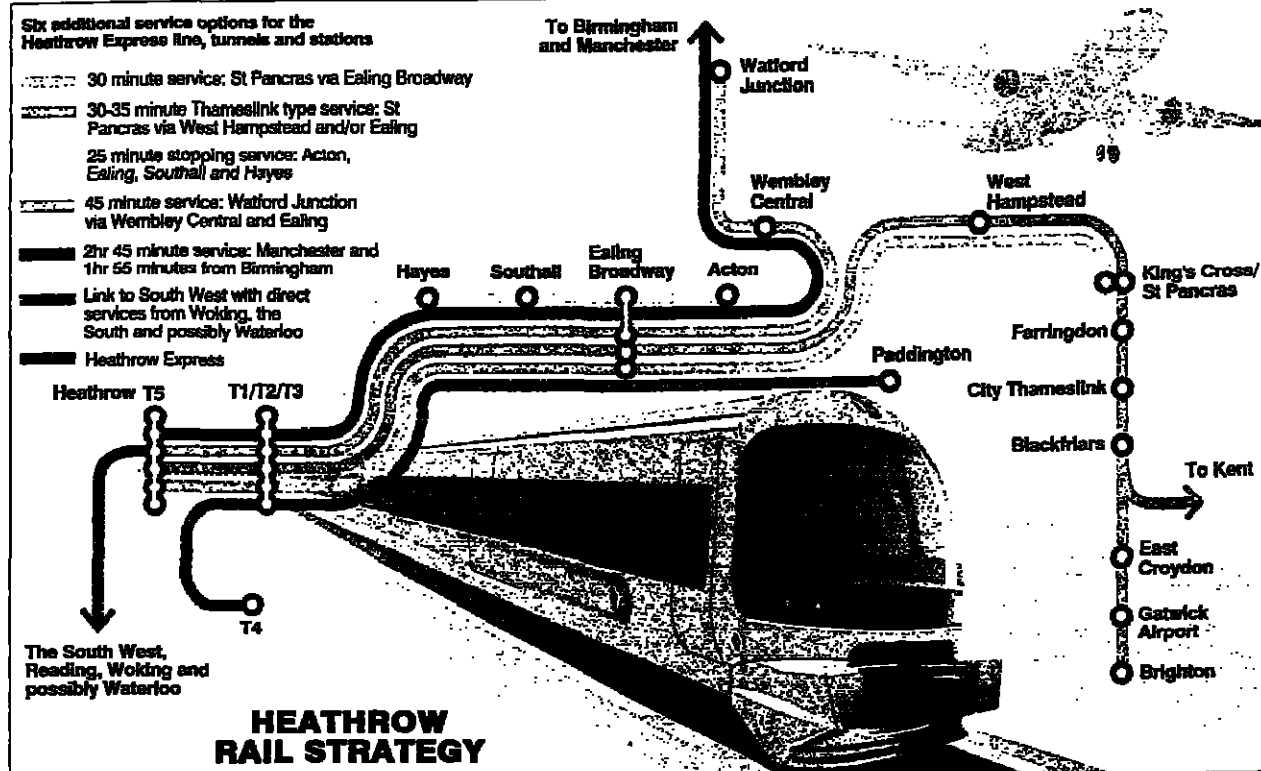
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## Airports' high-speed link set for take-off

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

A FAST rail link between Heathrow and Gatwick will allow travellers to make quick connections between the two airports could open within the next three years.

The planned route is one of six options being studied by companies eager to join the airports operator BAA in a £500 million scheme to turn Heathrow into the world's most efficient and environmentally friendly multi-transport hub.

Among other proposals in the plan, unveiled yesterday at the long-running inquiry into the proposed fifth terminal, are the building of a bus-only lane on the busy M4 spur road

into Heathrow, a cap on the number of parking spaces and a 25p levy on car parking charges, a boost in the number of bus and coach services and the creation of a 60-mile network of cycle routes around the airport for staff.

The key development is a series of proposed rail links being studied by BAA, Railtrack and a number of private companies which have shown an interest in running the trains. Among the options are links to St Pancras, Acton, Watford Junction, Manchester and Birmingham and the South West.

A decision on which to

develop first will be taken by the end of this year. The link is likely to be opened by January 1999, after new electric trains have been ordered and built.

Gatwick has been regarded by many within the airline industry as "Heathrow's third runway" for years - but connecting passengers have been forced to use a coach service on the often heavily congested M25 to get between the two airports. Under the new £88 million proposal, the existing Thameslink service from Gatwick would be extended from King's Cross through West Hampstead and Ealing, before joining the new

£350 million Heathrow Express line to the airport.

The Heathrow Express is expected to attract six million passengers in the first year after it opens in June 1998, an average of 17,000 a day. This would result in 3,000 fewer vehicles on Heathrow's roads each day.

BAA said yesterday that the package of proposals was aimed at enabling more than half of Heathrow's passengers to arrive at the airport on public transport. Currently, only 34 per cent do so. BAA's technical director, Michael Maine, says: "We are doing more than anyone could have hoped or expected to encourage public transport."

## French hit by new collapse



Air France: its holidays operation has fallen victim to price wars and exchange rates

By STEVE KEENAN

THE collapse in holiday sales to France continues, with the failure of another long-established tour operator this week. Air France Holidays will close on October 31, having lost £175,000 and seen bookings tumble by 40 per cent in the past few years.

About 1,000 customers booked to travel will have their holidays protected, and the company's bonds will remain in place until all customers abroad have returned.

Operators to France have been hit since 1993 by the poor exchange rate and a ferry and air-price war which has encouraged holidaymakers to

travel independently. While short-break sales have grown, summer sales of self-catering and touring holidays have plummeted.

Last month, Brittany Ferries took over the UK operations of one of the best-known names in travel across the Channel, Gîtes de France. The company's sales had fallen from 100,000 customers in 1993 to around 20,000 this year. Britain's biggest operator, Thomson, scrapped its French Riviera self-catering and hotels programme for 1997 following poor sales. And

French villa specialist Kingsland Holidays also folded this summer. Several other self-catering operators to France are clinging on by their fingertips after a 10 per cent fall in sales in 1994 and a 20 per cent fall last year.

Air France Holidays had operated in the UK for 22 years. Two years ago the company carried 25,000 holidaymakers, but the figure shrank to less than 16,000 this year, according to Francoise Teruel, the Air France Holidays managing director in the UK. Staff numbers at the company's London office had already been cut from 44 to 15.

## Wish we weren't here

A TRAVEL agency clerk booked a couple in their eighties into an apartment that was a breathless 470 steps from the beach in the young island, loudest resort on Tenerife, Harvey Elliott writes.

Now the pensioners have received an apology and their money back for the mistake. Albert and Dorothy Littlewood from Caister, Norfolk, went into the Lunn Poly agency in Great Yarmouth to choose a holiday from the Thomson brochure. But when they arrived in Playa de Las Americas, the frail couple discovered that their apartment was an hour's laborious walk up steps from the beach.

Mr Littlewood, 84, said: "I told the lady whom we booked the holiday with about the difficulty we have climbing steps and she told us not to worry about it."

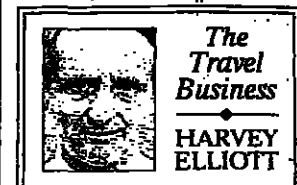
Lunn Poly said that it was "extremely sorry" and blamed its sales team for not following instructions for dealing with elderly or infirm customers.

## Is mass tourism a curse or a blessing?

THE Prince of Wales has struck a chord with holiday-makers who have discovered ugly tower block hotels dominating the once beautiful skyline of their favourite resorts.

The Prince described "the unstoppable seeds of destruction for the unsightly part of our world which drive the quest for travel in the first place". He told *Green Hotelier* magazine of the spreading "uglification", and said: "There are too many eyesores in the world designed as cheap, featureless dormitory blocks with no regard to how the buildings blend with its surroundings or how its construction and operation will impact on the environment or the local community."

He is, of course, correct. We have all cringed at the concrete awfulness of some hotels and apartment blocks, raged about the intrusive noise of fellow guests and the aircraft in which they travel, and



Harvey Elliott

bemoaned the sameness of hotel chains all over the world.

There are more worries. Some villages are being forcibly removed to make way for hotels, water tables are being drained to provide showers and swimming pools for the insatiable guests, coral reefs are being damaged, and animals are being pushed to the edge of extinction through pressure on their habitats.

But increasing numbers of people want to travel. The new middle classes of the former Soviet empire are now international tourists; the youngsters of Japan and the "tiger" economies of the East want to travel and see the West. The older generation in Britain is taking holidays in Vietnam, Thailand and South America when, a few decades ago, it would have ventured no further than Margate.

Can governments control tourism? Should governments, let alone the tourism industry, dictate where and when they travel? Any controls should surely not be put into the hands of such people as Lynne Pemberton, the hotelier and novelist who this week bemoaned changes brought by tourism to Barbados, attacking the "urbanisation that reeks of bad taste, ghastly pseudo-colonial resort hotels that crawl across once-deserted beaches."

"Where" she cried in *The Mail on Sunday*, "are all the cute little donkeys pulling dilapidated hand-daubed carts or the highly polished Austins and Vanguards, 1950s relics of a bygone English era? Now the roads are crowded with sleek little Toyotas and gleaming Jeeps."

Tourism has brought prosperity to many Barbadians, and the Caribbean island is now visited by millions who would never be able to afford the exclusive luxury of the grand hotels. But Ms Pemberton's views - much more extreme than any voiced by the Prince of Wales - are common among many.

Tourism has given economic prosperity to millions of people. Many of the lessons have been learnt from early mistakes, such as the quick construction of ugly hotels in Mallorca, for example, the worst of the old hotels are now being pulled down.

Though Prince Charles seems to have as few answers as any of the rest of us to the questions he has raised, we can at least hope he has sparked an informed debate.

## Airlines target the heavy mob

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

AIRLINES in America are becoming increasingly worried about the amount of carry-on luggage passengers are trying to take on flights.

Rules limiting the size and number of hand-carried bags are regularly flouted, causing congestion of overhead luggage bins and widespread irritation. Injuries have been caused when passengers trip over bags stowed on the floor.

The culprits are not just young travellers who have tried to take their rucksacks on board, or the harassed young families bogged down by the paraphernalia of parenthood. Business executives on stop-over assignments like to take their overnight bags into the cabin because it quickens their getaway.

Airport check-in staff for several airlines are now more vigilant. Craig Jenks, a New York-based airlines analyst, says: "This is an increasing problem and there is a lot of discussion about it."

Measuring bins are provided to check that bags are not beyond a certain size and one airline, United, has started to list "carry-on critical" flights

on which space is likely to be tight. Travel agents then advise passengers that the rules will be strictly enforced.

The problem has grown with the increased occupancy rates on US domestic flights. When aircraft often flew at 50 per cent capacity, it did not matter if a few passengers exceeded the limit. But now, with hotter competition, there is less room to spare.

At the same time, passengers appear to have lost the art of travelling light. Laptop computers are now de rigueur for many travellers, adding to the on-board clutter. Reduced in-flight food services have encouraged other passengers to travel with picnics, on top of which there are assorted music systems, sports accessories and bulky briefcases.

The main culprits are the "wheelie" cases. Their wheels can rip seat covers and are often too heavy to place in the overhead bins. The Luggage and Leather Goods Manufacturers of America says its members are producing "piggy-back" cases which zip together to disguise the fact that they are separate items.

## EU plans action on Cuba law

By HARVEY ELLIOTT

EUROPEAN Union Foreign Ministers are preparing joint action against America over a law that is disrupting thousands of holiday plans and could lead to the arrest of British business people.

An EU meeting on October 1 is expected to back the introduction of legislation to block the Helms-Burton Act, which gives Washington the power to penalise foreign businesses dealing with Cuba.

At least two British executives have been refused entry to the US because the company with which they were associated had dealings with Cuba. Now British tour operators are in disarray over the continued sale of holidays to the island.

Thomson, the Canadian-owned company that included Cuban holidays in early brochures but refused to allow travel agents to sell them because it feared its directors could be prevented from entering America, has withdrawn the offer. Ironically, Canada this week introduced a law protecting citizens and companies from "extraterritorial" action that might be taken.

Airtours says it is withdrawing Cuba from sale for next winter, blaming "poor sales". But First Choice says it is selling as normal and Sunworld insists that business will continue as usual.

The US law was introduced after pressure from exiled Cubans who claimed that their property had been confiscated when the communists took power. Anyone who has any dealings with this property, or the people involved in the US and have their US assets seized. From March, they could face prosecution.

The Foreign Office is adamant that there is nothing to prevent British citizens from visiting Cuba. Last year about 20,000 Britons went to the island, which appeared to be on the brink of a tourist boom.

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## Moghuls & Maharajahs

visiting Agra (for the Taj Mahal) with optional visits to Fatehpur Sikri, Jaipur, Sikandra, Delhi & Kathmandu

Starting in October we shall be resuming our flight series direct from London Gatwick to Agra for the Taj Mahal and in the process avoiding the tedium of travelling to and from Delhi and permitting the traveller to see that which he has come to see and able to relax and enjoy other parts of Rajasthan at an easy pace and when the weather is at its most pleasant.

Our arrangement includes the International flight to and from Agra, visits to the Taj Mahal and Red Fort, seven nights accommodation at either the 5-star Agra Claris Sheraton hotel or alternatively at the 5-star deluxe Moghul Sheraton at a modest supplement. A variety of optional visits to Jaipur, Fatehpur Sikri, Sikandra, Delhi and Kathmandu are available. Alternatively you may elect to just relax and enjoy the facilities of your chosen hotel.

See the Taj Mahal set in formal gardens on the River Jumna, which was begun in 1630 by the Emperor Shah Jahan for his favourite wife, Mumtaz Mahal. The building is of white marble and has a pietra-dura inlay work of extraordinary delicacy. Later continue to the Red Fort, a complete Moghul city itself, built by Akbar and enclosed by turreted, red sandstone walls.

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مكتبة الأصل



## Bargains of the week — from a weekend break in Knightsbridge to a fortnight's B&amp;B in Goa

## FERRIES

HAMBURG and Esbjerg in Denmark are available with Scandinavian Seaways, which is selling breaks consisting of two nights on board and a city tour. Hamburg costs £69 a person departing on September 24. Esbjerg £59 leaving October 1. Details: 0990 33311.

SEA France is selling five-day returns on its Dover-Calais route for £39.50. Day returns at £1 a passenger and £10 for a car and occupants are also available. Details: 0990 71711.

P&O European Ferries is selling day trips on its Dover-Calais route at £16 a car and £1 a passenger. Foot passengers can buy day returns for £1. Details: 0990 98080.

RED Funnel has launched a £30 weekend return package on the Southampton-Cowes route, including a car and up to four people. Sailings are on Fridays, from 4pm, with any return until the last Sunday sailing, available until December 15. Details: 01703 334010.

SEACAT Scotland will carry a car and four adults on its Sam daily sailing from Stranraer to Belfast, returning any day at 8.30pm for £175, valid until January 6 next year. Details: 0345 523523.

## HOLIDAYS

NICE for £209 a person for a week's self-catering holiday with a flight from Gatwick on September 28 is among late offers from Lunn Poly, available from any of the company's 800 Holiday Shops.

CARIBTOURS offers £63 a person off holidays using BA flights from Gatwick to Barbados, Grenada and St Lucia from today until October 6, cutting the cost of a week on Grenada to £527 a person and a week's half-board at Cocor Creek, Barbados to £950. Details: 0171-581 3517.

CORFU villas on the quiet northeast coast are still available from tomorrow and next Friday from CV Travel from £335 a person including flights. Details: 0171-581 0851.

FLORIDA fly-drive holidays are available for £229 a person for a fortnight, excluding accommodation, from Page & Moy, with a flight from Gatwick next Tuesday. Details: 0116-250 7116.

CYPRUS for a week for £329 with bed and breakfast accommodation and a flight from Luton next Wednesday is available from Cosmos. Details: 0161-480 5799.

CAPRI is available for a week's holiday instead of the

usual daytrip from the Italian coast from Headwater Holidays and next. The price, including bed and breakfast and notes on local walks, is £526 a person. Details: 01606 48699.

GOA for £419 a person for a fortnight, with a flight from Gatwick on October 3 and including bed and breakfast accommodation, is available from Advantage Travel Centres. Details: 0990 891883.

TURKISH Jeep Safaris are on offer for £450 a person from Accommodation Overseas, with a flight from Gatwick on October 5, including two nights in a hotel and five nights camping. Details: 0181-977 2984.

MALTA for £239 a person for a fortnight's self-catering trip is available from Portland Direct, with a flight from East Midlands, on October 8. Details: 0990 002200.

BOOK by October 1 for a £250 saving from the Cruise Line on a week's six-island Caribbean cruise leaving San Juan on December 1 and taking in Barbados and Martinique. The offer price of £699 a person includes non-stop flights from Gatwick, and all meals and entertainment. Details: 01273 835252.



Nice: a week's self-catering will cost you £209 a person

## HOTELS

A FREE demonstration disk of the HotelDisk from Official Airline Guides is now available, listing more than 15,000 hotels in 49 European countries. The system is updated quarterly in either disco or CD-Rom format and an annual subscription costs £165 plus VAT. Details: 01582 695390.

SAVE up to £10 a person on short breaks at the Billesley Manor Hotel in Stratford-upon-Avon when booking through Highlife Breaks. Half-board accommodation until October 31 is reduced from £97 to £87 a person a night, with bed and breakfast packages down from £76 to £72. Details: 0800 700400.

INTER-CONTINENTAL Hotels has added Zurich and Barcelona to its Heart of the City weekend break programme, valid until next March. A room for two at the Princess Sofia in Barcelona costs about £79 a night, while the room rate at the Inter-Continental Zurich is £88. Details: 0181-847277.

ASHDOWN PARK Country House Hotel in East Sussex has a "taste of opera" evening on October 6 featuring a four-course dinner with operatic highlights for £59 a person. A special overnight rate of £99.20 a person, based

on double occupancy, is also available, a 20 per cent discount on the usual rates. Details: 01342 824988.

GOOD hotel deals are available in Orlando, Florida, until December 20 from Hotelshop USA. The Travelodge at the Florida Mall, for example, has a price of just £19 a room a night with rooms accommodating up to four people. Details: 0181-995 3010.

THE luxury Hotel de L'Europe in Amsterdam has a two-night offer until December 23 of £400 a room, double occupancy, or £216 single. The package is for a Friday or Saturday arrival. Details: 0800 18123.

THE new "weekend break" rate at the Berkeley Hotel in Knightsbridge, London, is £100 a night a person including VAT, based on double occupancy. There is also free use of the hotel's spa and health club. Details: 0171-235 6000.

STAY at the four-star Merion Thistle Hotel in Leeds and visit the nearby royal armours exhibition. Cost per adult is £54 a night double occupancy, including dinner, breakfast and admission to the exhibition. Details: 0113-2439191.

## FLIGHTS

DURING September, Malmö Aviation is providing a free ticket for business-class passengers paying the full fare of £548 between London City and southern Sweden. The free ticket can be used between October 1 and December 31. Details: 01293 530839.

LUPUS Travel has discounted fares on Alitalia via Rome to southern Africa, Latin America and Asia. A return ticket to Johannesburg costs £409, Hong Kong £454 and Bombay £339. Details: 0171-306 3000.

VIRGIN Atlantic flights to New York costing £240 return are available through Travel-mood. Details: 0171-258 0280.

TWO business-class passengers booking World Airlines between London, City and Amsterdam can travel for the price of one when paying for the £229 three-day excursion. Details: 0171-287 6000.

CITYJET, an Irish airline, has a companion-fare offer between London City and Dublin. A passenger booking the £88 excursion can take a friend for £44. Details: 0345 445588.

RIO de Janeiro for £479 return from Heathrow is available from STA Travel for students and under-26s. Details: 0171-361 6282.

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# British Gas risks new attack in profit fight

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY  
INDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

THE GAS regulator will increase demands for British Gas's profits to be cut if the company resists existing proposals and forces an inquiry by the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Ofgas said yesterday that if the dispute between it and British Gas over pricing controls for TransCo, British Gas's pipeline division, goes to the MMC, Clare Spottiswoode, the regulator, would seek a tougher asset valuation than she now proposes. The valuation is crucial for TransCo profits because it governs the rate of

return that is allowed. The company could end up losing £850 million from its revenues. At present it faces a reduction of £650 million. The revenue cuts are expected to result in cuts in domestic gas bills of about £28 a year at present. Ofgas's final proposals on TransCo's pricing were a big climbdown from Ms Spottiswoode's original stance and included a compromise on valuation of the business. Originally, she had said that this would be between £9 billion and £11 billion, but she then offered a valuation of £11.7 billion. British Gas believes that the business is worth more than £14 billion. An Ofgas spokesman said: "If the issue goes to

the MMC, Clare will push for a valuation of £9 billion. It will be a different ball game." The valuation had been rewritten to avoid an MMC investigation and to satisfy a clause in a past MMC report on British Gas that regulation cannot be retrospective. This clause was interpreted by the regulator in her final proposals as meaning that an existing formula for calculating asset valuation had to be applied. However, if a new MMC inquiry is triggered, those considerations will be dropped. The tougher call from the regulator will be backed by gas shippers — independent gas companies that pay to use TransCo's pipes. They

say the Ofgas review was too lenient and are expected to be vociferous in an MMC inquiry. British Gas said that it would consider the harsher threat from Ofgas as it reached its decision on the pricing proposals. A spokesman said: "This is a very significant decision for British Gas and we are not going to rush into it without making sure that we understand fully all its implications, have gone through the necessary processes, and exhausted all avenues of dialogue with Ofgas." The company has until October 7 to respond. Referral to the MMC will be automatic if it refuses to accept the curbs.

## France under fire over budget

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN PARIS

THE French Government yesterday unveiled a 1997 budget designed to ensure qualification for a single European currency, but its efforts were immediately attacked by economists who criticised the "creative accounting" involved and a disappointingly small drop in the projected central government budget deficit. The budget, already widely leaked, contains a package of tax reductions and spending cuts. The Government insists that this will boost consumer spending and revive the ailing economy, while cutting the overall deficit to 3 per cent of GDP, the limit prescribed by the Maastricht treaty.

Jean Arthuis, the Finance Minister, said that France aimed to cut its deficit to less than 2 per cent by the year 2001. "Economic history will say it was in 1997 that France turned its back on the ballooning of public spending and began the long-awaited reduction in taxation," he said. The budget includes cuts in spending on job creation and housing subsidies and the pruning of some 6,000 civil service jobs, amounting to savings of Fr60 billion or £7.9 billion.

But, after taking into account promised tax cuts amounting to Fr25 billion, the Government said that the central budget deficit would be only fractionally reduced to

Fr283.7 billion next year from Fr288 billion forecast for this year. This is a far cry from the Fr40 billion reduction being mooted in the spring. To reach the Maastricht target, the Government has resorted to some imaginative number-juggling. The most notorious example is a one-off cash transfer of Fr37.5 billion from France Telecom in exchange for the Government taking on the company's future pension liabilities. The quip doing the rounds in Paris' financial circles yesterday was: "Euro 97, officially sponsored by France Telecom."

David Harrington, a senior analyst at James Capel, said: "They want to show the world that they still have the political will to achieve the criteria for Maastricht, by hook or by crook. But they are being transparent about it. You could say they are obeying the letter, if not the spirit of the rules."

Even if the French economy hits its 3 per cent growth, some economists say that further creative accounting may be necessary to reach the 3 per cent target figure. And if the economy is further slowed by a repeat of last year's industrial action, the Government will have still less room for manoeuvre.

Pennington, page 25  
Economic view, page 27



Andrew MacKenzie hopes to cut overheads and to increase Admiral's margins

## Bryant absorbs Admiral Homes

BY KEITH RODGERS

THE buoyancy of the housebuilding market was shown yesterday when Bryant Group bought Admiral Homes, its privately owned rival, for £622 million. City analysts questioned whether it had overpaid.

Bryant, which also unveiled a slump in annual pre-tax profits after a 16.5 per cent fall in home completions, gains 1,750 plots and a further 500 acres of land under options from the deal. It is paying £42 million in cash and assumes Admiral's £58 million net borrowings.

Andrew MacKenzie, Bryant's chief executive, said it plans to cut overheads, including staff, and to exploit the group's larger purchasing power in a bid to improve Admiral's margins.

Bryant's pre-tax profits for the year to May 31 fell from £45.8 million to £24.6 million on turnover down 7.2 per cent to £453.6 million. Earnings per share fell from 11p to 5.9p. The dividend, payable on November 22, is maintained at 5.05p per share.

Mr MacKenzie said that borrowing, which fell to 7 per cent of shareholders' funds at the year end, would be about 40 per cent at the half year after the acquisition, falling to 35 per cent at the year end.

Tilbury Douglas reported pre-tax profits up 14 per cent for the six months to June 30 on turnover 8 per cent higher at £232 million. Earnings per share climbed 14 per cent to 16.5p, and the dividend, payable on November 8, was unchanged at 7p per share. The company said it will continue to expand into overseas markets.

### BUSINESS ROUNDUP

## Job losses to follow SBC restructuring

SWISS BANK CORPORATION (SBC) is restructuring its domestic Swiss banking operations with the loss of 1,700 jobs, it was announced in Basel yesterday. The move will trigger a one-off exceptional loss of SF1.9 billion (£1 billion) this financial year.

The restructuring will not affect operations in the UK, which include SBC Warburg, the investment banking division, which shed up to 1,000 jobs worldwide immediately after the merger of SBC and SG Warburg in July 1995. In Switzerland, 15 offices are to be reorganised into a structure built around three regional centres. About 80 out of 325 branches will be closed or integrated with other units over the next three years. Most of the 1,700 jobs will be lost through natural wastage.

## Bowthorpe ahead

BOWTHORPE, the international electronics and electrical group, boosted profits 7 per cent in the first six months under Nicholas Brookes, the new chief executive. First-half pre-tax profits rose to £42.5 million from £39.6 million in the half year to June 30. The dividend of 3.21p, payable on 9 December, compared with 3p. Profits met analysts' expectations, but were weighed down by restructuring costs of £2.1 million.

## Loss for Hunting

HUNTING, the defence, aviation and oil group, incurred a £14.2 million pre-tax loss as it made provisions to cover problems in its aviation business. Provisions of £30 million were made to cover design problems in the Dash-8 contract for supplying interiors to de Havilland Canada. A further £10 million provision was made against the investment in the development of the J-41 turboprop aircraft. No interim dividend will be paid. *Tempus page 26*

## Wise Speke soars

WISE SPEKE, the Newcastle stockbroker owned by Ockham, the insurance broker, may itself be coming to the market itself via a listing on the main exchange. In the six months to June 30, Ockham's pre-tax profits were more than three times higher than last time, at £10.9 million (£2.9 million). Sales were £36.6 million (£13.2 million), leaving earnings of 12p (3.9p) per share. A maintained interim dividend of 1p will be paid on November 12.

## Britt Allcroft venture

BRITT ALLCROFT, the soon-to-launch company that turned Thomas the Tank Engine into a television programme, is linking with VCI, the video group chaired by Michael Grade, to develop new characters for children's entertainment. The 50-50 joint venture, called Moonbeam, will have funding of up to £1.5 million and aim initially to develop programmes for video distribution. VCI already works with Britt Allcroft through its range of Thomas the Tank Engine videos.

## British Biotech setback

BRITISH BIOTECH, the largest player in the biotechnology sector, said that Glaxo Wellcome had ended its development sponsorship of a potential anti-asthma treatment in the wake of disappointing clinical trials. But British Biotech said that Glaxo's decision not to license the oral form of Lixaphant would not affect development work on other versions of the drug. The company said its £8 million loss in the quarter to July 31 (£7 million loss) was because of increased spending on clinical trials.

## Airtech wins US order

AIRTECH, which is to float on the AIM market next week, said yesterday it has won a \$3 million order to supply Nokia with masthead amplifiers for the American mobile-phone market. The contract will allow the company to proceed with building a small factory in Dallas, Texas. Airtech's initial public offering is expected to raise about £10 million, valuing the company at about £30 million. Management will own about 60 per cent after the offering.

## Dagenham reverses

DAGENHAM MOTORS, the car dealer, yesterday said that year-end profits will be hit by a drop in incentive payouts from Ford, its sole supplier. It said that a stricter bonus policy had seen profits in August fall behind last year's, although sales were 3 per cent up. The shares fell 15p, to 122½p, yesterday. In the half year to June 30, pre-tax profits dropped to £2.35 million (£2.51 million) on sales 10 per cent up, to £147 million. A frozen dividend of 2.2p will be paid on November 15.

## Postern rescue fund

POSTERN, the company rescue specialist, is launching a £15 million fund to invest in troubled companies that have turned to it for help. Trevor Swete, who heads Postern, said that it would be able to give troubled companies a breathing space to renegotiate bank loans and supplier agreements. He said that the fund would invest only when Postern executives were working on a rescue of a company and that this would cut down the risks of losing the investment.

## Cordiant buys stake

CORDIANT is paying Fr171 million to purchase the 47 per cent of the French arm of Saatchi & Saatchi it does not already own. The minority stake is currently owned by the French agency's present and former employees. Saatchi & Saatchi France is one of Cordiant's largest businesses outside the UK and Cordiant has been in talks for some time to buy the interest.

## Bass alcopop to reach 300,000 sales this year

BY ALASDAIR MURRAY

BASS, the brewing and leisure company, revealed that sales of Hooper's Hooch, its leading alcopop brand, would hit 300,000 barrels this year.

Sales of the controversial alcoholic soft-drinks have boomed since they were first launched in this country two years ago, with the total market estimated to be worth about £250 million this year. The fad for alcopops has also begun to hit other drinks businesses, forcing Matthew Clark, the drinks company, to admit last week that it had lost up to 60 per cent of sales on its premium packaged cider brands such as Diamond White.

Bass said that Hooper's Hooch, which is the country's largest selling alcopop brand, had helped to push up profits in its brewing division. Beer volumes also increased about 2 per cent although the com-

pany said that competitive pressures were continuing to hurt margins.

The company added that its tavern estate and hotels divisions had continued to perform strongly. But profits in the leisure division remained below last year, with Gala, the bingo subsidiary, continuing to suffer because of the impact of the National Lottery. Profits also declined in the British soft drinks business.

Sir Ian Prosser, chairman, said that overall progress was in line with market expectations.

Bass provided no further details of the £200 million Carlsberg-Tetley purchase, although the company said it hoped for a speedy resolution of discussions with the regulatory authorities.

Bass shares fell 1.5p to close at 792p. Matthew Clark shares were unchanged at 363½p.

## Britannic steady at half time

BY PAUL DURMAN

BRITANNIC ASSURANCE, the life insurer, yesterday reported half-time results for the first time, showing operating profits marginally lower at £25.8 million (£25.9 million).

Britannic has previously taken advantage of an exemption that allows life insurers not to report interims, since profit figures must be based on estimates.

The Birmingham insurer was held back by a £200,000 loss by its general insurance arm, after a £1.2 million profit last year. Britannic decided to pull out of motor insurance earlier this year, although it has arranged for Avon Insurance to offer its customers motor cover.

Pre-tax profits — which because of a European Union directive have to include highly changeable investment gains — fell 12 per cent from £30.9 million to £27.2 million. The interim dividend rises by 8.7 per cent to 5p a share, payable on October 24.

## New partner sought after UTV pulls the plug on TV3

FROM EILEEN MCCABE IN DUBLIN

THE consortium behind the Republic of Ireland's first independent television channel, which is due to go on air by the end of 1997, is searching for a new broadcast partner after the shock withdrawal of UTV.

John McGuckian, UTV's chairman, yesterday said the company had pulled out of the TV3 project because of disagreements with the IRTC, the

Republic's broadcast regulatory authority.

Last September UTV agreed to put up £6 million for a 40 per cent stake in TV3, which will attempt to break the monopoly of RTE, the state broadcasting authority in the Republic. A further one third of the shareholding was expected to be made available to institutional investors, with the rest held by individuals such as Paul McGuinness, the manager of rock band U2.

Mr McGuckian made the announcement during his report on UTV's first-half performance, which saw pre-tax profits rise 27 per cent to £4.67 million, largely because of income from its investment portfolio. He gave warning that the short-term market remains slow, but said improving economic conditions should lead to a better 1997.

Earnings per share increased to 5.95p (4.67p) and the company declared an increased interim dividend of 2.25p, payable on October 22.

## Virgin on new BR shortlist

BY JONATHAN PRYNN

RICHARD BRANSON'S Virgin Group has been short-listed for the sale of CrossCountry Trains, British Rail's "non-London" InterCity rail network, and one of the most attractive remaining BR owned franchises. The company will be competing

against Prism Rail, the stock market quoted private train operator, and Great Western Holdings, the management buyout team that won the Great Western InterCity franchise.

CrossCountry operates mainly long-distance services throughout Britain and is

BR's only franchise with destinations nationwide. It runs the UK's longest scheduled daily passenger service, the 704-mile Dundee to Penzance *Cornishman*.

Mr Branson's company has so far missed out on every franchise it has bid for, most recently Thames Trains.

## Costain first-half loss rises to £19m

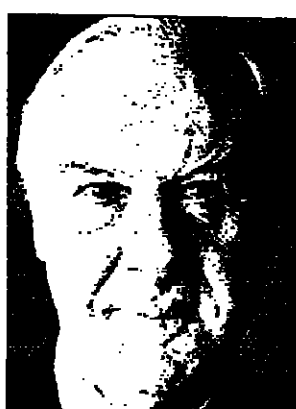
BY OLIVER AUGUST

COSTAIN, the troubled construction company, has incurred a half-year loss almost double that of last year.

In the six months to June 30, the loss rose to £19.2 million from £10.4 million. The loss per share increased to 38.2p from 21.6p and shareholders again will not receive a dividend.

The company believes it will achieve a turnaround in the second half on the strength of an order book said to be up 15 per cent to £636 million.

Sir Christopher Benson, chairman, said: "We remain convinced further benefits will stem from having major shareholders in South-East Asia and the Middle East —



Benson: awaits benefits

two key overseas markets." Costain restructured after its shares were suspended in May. A Malaysian investor, Intria, took a 40 per cent stake after a rights issue.

### TOURIST RATES

Bank	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	2.07	1.91
Austria Sch	17.57	16.07
Belgium F	51.46	47.18
Canada \$	2.24	2.09
Cyprus Cyp	0.758	0.703
Denmark Kr	9.63	8.83
Finland Mkk	7.86	7.01
France F	6.61	7.76
Germany Dm	2.51	2.30
Greece Dr	330	365
Hong Kong \$	12.58	11.58
Iceland	115	95
Ireland P	1.02	0.94
Israel Sh	5.32	4.87
Italy Lira	2485	2250
Japan Yen	185.80	169.80
Malta	0.602	0.547
Netherlands Gld	2.792	2.582
New Zealand \$	2.37	2.15
Norway Kr	10.63	9.63
Portugal Esc	251.50	223.00
S. Africa Rd	7.57	6.77
Spain Pta	204.50	191.50
Sweden Kr	10.36	10.15
Switzerland Fr	2.07	1.89
Turkey Lira	142250	134550
USA \$	1.856	1.826

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## Going for broke with Beckman

□ EQUITY analysts, like free-masons, are secretive creatures who prefer to conduct their strange rituals well out of the public eye. Which is why PDFM, the old Phillips & Drew and now part of UBS, has been so embarrassed by the fuss over its attempt to anticipate a stock market crash by putting 15 per cent of all funds under management in cash.

The symptoms suggest that PDFM has an advanced case of Beckmanitis, a morbid compulsion to anticipate disaster by forecasting it early and often named after a financial pundit called Bob Beckman, whose trick it was to earn large amounts of money for himself by always being wrong.

Mr Beckman advised homeowners in 1970 that their houses were about to halve in value. In 1983 he was warning of global economic meltdown, banks failing all over the place, property values collapsing. The next four years saw the FT-SE 100 virtually trebling right up to the 1987 market crash. It would be another two years before the property market heeded his advice and went into reverse.

The point is that Mr Beckman, like most prophets of doom, was undismayed by the refusal of the Apocalypse to arrive to his deadlines. Like the weather forecaster predicting rain, he had to

be right eventually however much drought the £000025 endured beforehand. Mr Beckman was last heard of ranting about a Zionist conspiracy that controlled international banking and commerce.

PDFM bases its views on a value investment philosophy based on what shares should intrinsically be worth. Anatole Kaletsky, in these pages earlier this week, has already shown that any market analysis may be wrong if it fails to take a long enough view of economic trends. The current bull run for world stock markets must end one day, and the umbrellas come out again. PDFM, by looking for that correction at least 18 months early, has merely jumped off the bus an unquantified number of stops short of the destination. The cost, in terms of profits that would have been made had the fund manager had stayed on board until now, has been put at £3 billion.

Clients are understandably unhappy and some are threatening to take their business elsewhere unless the 15 per cent cash weighting is moved towards the

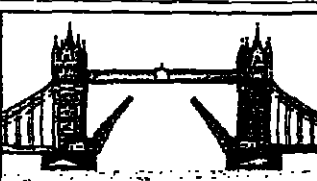
current industry average of nearer 6 per cent. This puts the manager in the ludicrous position of having to reverse a policy to which it is still committed; the damage is done, and a reversal now, if those fears of a market collapse are right, would only make things worse.

So PDFM, in a rare public statement of investment policy, yesterday defended itself with reference to other occasions where it has been right and the market wrong long-term, even if its short-term performance suffered by comparison. Events will prove this one way or another. So far PDFM has been in the unfortunate position of adopting, on entirely rational grounds, a stance that most of its peers reject — so proving, yet again, that you cannot buck the markets.

### Consumption is good for you

□ THE trouble with knocking off for August is that Ken and Eddie have to face each other for two monetary meetings in September. We know what hap-

PENNINGTON



pened the first time: nothing. Judging from newly published minutes of the duo's late-July encounter, the Governor probably continued to argue for a rate rise while the Chancellor stoutly resisted, on the ground that there was no visible sign of inflation.

The exact tone of the September 4 script is nonetheless of some interest since the Large and Large show will be replaying bang in the middle of the Tories' short Bournemouth season. By then, the meeting scheduled for Monday will have come and gone. If the bookies are right, nothing will happen after that either.

The arguments are, however, developing. In July, the Governor argued that consumer

spending was picking up too fast for comfort. Not at all, sooths the Chancellor, there is no accelerating trend here. It is just that consumers are at last starting to spend after a start far too slow for the Treasury's forecasts.

Yesterday, the Bank's guns received a new delivery of ammunition. The volume of retail sales in the three months to August was 1.6 per cent higher than in the previous three. That is an annual growth rate of 6.6 per cent, the fastest since the heyday of the late 1980s boom.

About time too, the Chancellor may think. But these figures will certainly be fired at his Treasury team on Monday. The foreign exchanges seem to think the battery will eventually break their resistance. Sterling jumped a few more notches of its uptrend of the past seven weeks. Already, the discussion has shifted away from a further rate cut.

Apart from overheated markets, the timing of minor changes in base rate scarcely matters, especially ahead of more vital US rate decisions. But it is a gripping sport to watch a politician trying to square pragmatism

with virtue ahead of an election. Thankfully, that should come soon enough to limit any damage from the conflict.

### UK could beef up the euro debate

□ THERE are currently two prerequisites for keeping monetary union on track for 1999. The first is that the key players must give the impression they will fulfil Maastricht's convergence criteria. To all intents and purposes this was achieved yesterday, when France delivered its budget for next year and duly said that the deficit would come down to the magic 3 per cent limit in 1997, the test year for entry into a single currency.

Nobody in the financial markets really believes that the budget arithmetic is credible. But that hardly matters as long as the markets think France is determined to sign up for the euro, backed by Germany. So despite scepticism about the budget, the markets yesterday mounted nothing more than a token attack on the franc. The

negotiating focus is now moving away from deficits and towards finding agreement on the rules of the game after 1999. It now seems that consensus is near on Germany's idea of a stability pact, a system of sanctions on those who run excessive deficits after monetary union.

Perhaps finance ministers will even agree a proposal at their meeting in Dublin this weekend. It will then be worth watching how the British position evolves, given that a stability pact ends national control over fiscal policy. If Britain is still fighting with Europe over beef, voting against such a pact would be an irritating bargaining tool at this country's disposal.

### Peter out

□ AS LATE as last Friday, Morgan Grenfell was insisting that Peter Young, the man increasingly being painted as this year's Nick Leeson, even down to a photographically supportive wife, would not be dismissed immediately. He was far too useful in helping them with their inquiries. Now Mr Young has been given the push, and the suspicion must be that he is no longer proving quite so helpful. As any policeman knows, this tends to happen once the lawyers arrive to clutter up the interrogation room.



Tom Farmer, chairman and chief executive of Kwik-Fit, which has lifted its profits by 19 per cent to £21.5 million

## Kwik-Fit ahead in market slowdown

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

A SLOWDOWN in the market for tyres and exhausts has failed to hold back the growth of Kwik-Fit Holdings, the automotive replacement specialist.

The company yesterday announced interim pre-tax profits up by 19 per cent, to £21.5 million, in the six months to August 31, on the back of turnover up by 21 per cent, to £220 million.

Tom Farmer, the chairman, referring to the second half of the year, said: "We will aggressively promote our products and services and concentrate on realising the benefits of the significant investments already made."

The company's promotions are famous for their slogan, "You can't fit quicker than a Kwik-Fit fitter".

Profits from Kwik-Fit's Dutch business fell, but the

company said that its sales in August have "shown an up-lift". Kwik-Fit Insurance Services made a loss of £900,000 in the first half, but showed a net profit last month, the company said. The results include a write-off of £5.1 million to cover development costs of the insurance services arm. A profit of £7.1 million on the sale and leaseback of properties gave an exceptional profit of £7.1 million, however, so the net exceptional gain was £2 million.

Kwik-Fit now operates from 846 specialist centres. It has added 54 in the first half. Tyre sales grew by 30 per cent in the period, and exhaust sales were ahead 8 per cent.

Earnings per share rose by 16 per cent, to 8.52p. The interim dividend rises by 11 per cent, to 2.1p, payable on October 30.

## UniChem and Gehe in spat

By PAUL DURMAN

UNICHEM and the German company Gehe, rival bidders for Lloyds Chemists, yesterday clashed over what UniChem told the Monopolies and Mergers Commission about the health of pharmaceutical wholesaling.

Gehe said that UniChem's upbeat comments accompanying interim results were at odds with its statement to the MMC that "prospects for growth in sales and profits in... pharmaceutical wholesaling seemed limited". Yesterday, UniChem said its wholesaling business was "well positioned to expand... in a market that continues to exhibit long-term growth characteristics".

Gehe said that UniChem seemed to be willing to tailor its views to the circumstances. After accusing Gehe of "mud-slinging", Jeff Harris, UniChem's chief executive,

said: "You would expect us to put the best light on things." UniChem's pre-tax profits for the first half of the year rose by 11.6 per cent, to £24.2 million, held back by the £877,000 cost of funding its 9.9 per cent stake in Lloyds.

UniChem announced that UniDrug, its joint venture with United Drug, has won a contract to distribute the £220 million of drugs produced by the UK arm of Bristol-Myers Squibb. Mr Harris said that UniChem believes that other leading drug companies may contract out deliveries to wholesalers.

The wholesale arm lifted its profits by 13 per cent, to £19.4 million, aided by recovery from warehouse problems. An interim dividend of 3p (2.7p) is due on December 31.

Tempus, page 26

## Next lifts payout 33% as sales prove buoyant

By SARAH CUNNINGHAM

BUOYANT high street and mail order sales have helped Next, the fashion retailer, to achieve sharply higher first-half profits and to lift its interim dividend 33 per cent.

Pre-tax profits in the six months to July 31 were 27 per cent higher, at £56 million, at the top of market expectations. The interim dividend rises by 1.25p, to 5p, payable on January 2.

Shares in Next, which recently rejoined the FT-SE 100, fell back 4 per cent, to 573½p, however, on profit taking and disappointment that sales growth had slowed at the beginning of the second half.

In the first half, Next stores' sales rose by 23 per cent on

selling space that was 5 per cent up on the previous year. In contrast to most of the rest of the mail order sector, Next Directory boosted sales by 23 per cent. It added 112,000 customers to make 620,000. Total sales rose to £406.4 million, from £333.3 million.

In the five weeks from August 12, following the summer sale, store sales were a relatively modest 14 per cent up on the previous year. Like-for-like sales were nearer 10 per cent up.

The company said that low stock levels at the end of the busier than expected first half were mainly responsible for the slower sales of recent weeks. Mail order sales were

20 per cent higher in the same five week period.

David Jones, chief executive, said that Next was relaxed about its £143 million cash pile, which it will use to fund dividend payouts. He said the company had no plans for share buybacks, special dividends or major acquisitions. The company looked at acquisition opportunities as they came along, he said, but had seen "nothing that is a serious challenge".

Mr Jones dismissed speculation that the appointment of Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale, Next's chairman, as chairman of GUS, might lead to a link-up between the two companies.

Next has faced a setback in

France, where its one store, in Paris, has seen disappointing sales. Mr Jones said: "We will run it until Christmas. It is important to give it a second season." Next's four stores in the US are not profitable, but Mr Jones hopes that new management will turn the operation around.

Expansion abroad is now being concentrated on franchises in the Middle East and the Far East and Japan, with plans to open a further ten this year, taking the total to 30. In the UK, the company plans to add up to 6 per cent space this year, mainly by extending existing stores.

Tempus, page 26

We are very much the market leader... so why are we trying harder?

Having built up our business — and our reputation — you might think we can afford to relax a little.

But no, if anything, it's just the opposite. In fact, the better the service we offer, the better the service people expect.

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We continue to make a substantial investment in our people and technology to move us further ahead of the field in providing a prompt and reliable service.

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IT PAYS TO OPT FOR THE OPTIMUM SERVICE



Lloyds Bank Registrars

## Copper prices hit Wassall

By FRASER NELSON

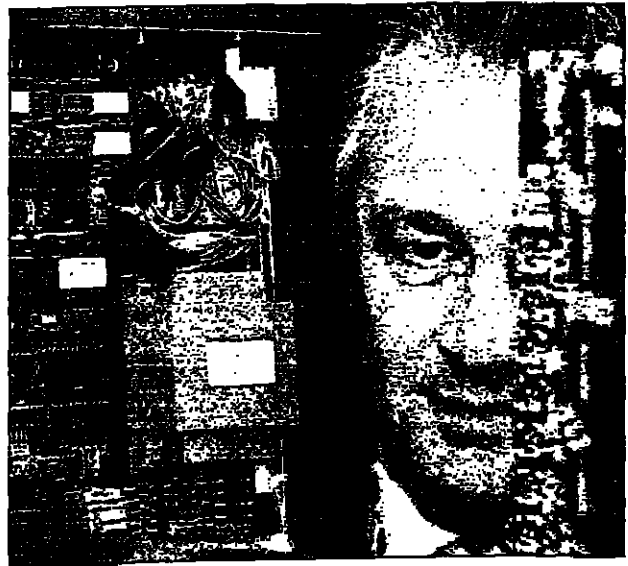
SHARES of Wassall, the industrial group, rose from 292½p to a near high of 308½p yesterday after it lifted its interim dividend 35 per cent to 2.1p.

Profits at General Cable, the cable manufacturer it bought in 1994, rose 54 per cent to £17.9 million at the operating level — 60 per cent of the group total.

However, profits were flat at its bottle tops division, which was hit as the UK drinks industry used its stockpile of tops over the period.

The company's other divisions, which span suitcases to trailer axles, also returned flat performances.

Overall, pre-tax profits were heavily affected by sharp fluctuations in copper prices. These took interim pre-tax profits down to £22.4 million from £24.4 million, a smaller



Rod Ackrill, chairman of Symonds, yesterday

## Symonds acquisition

By FRASER NELSON

SYMONDS, the computer components manufacturer, yesterday announced an agreed £4.6 million takeover offer for Osborne Group, which makes computer circuit boards. It is its fifth acquisition in two years.

performance. The acquisition will equip Symonds with an electronic assembly plant, allowing the enlarged group to provide a complete circuit board manufacturing service. In the year to June 30, Osborne turned in pre-tax

## MIN hurt by cost of failed bid

By ERIC REGULY

THE cost of a failed acquisition attempt and the closure of two loss-making titles cut the interim earnings of Midland Independent Newspapers, one of the largest regional newspaper publishers.

Midland's abortive bid for Emap's regional titles accounted for £1.4 million while the cost of closing two free weekly newspapers in Leicester and Nottingham was £2.7 million. Newsprint prices, meanwhile, rose 35 per cent to £23 million.

Pre-tax profits, as a result, slumped to £3.7 million (£9.4 million), or 1.17p a share (4.58p) in the half year to June 30. Operating profits fell marginally from £10.7 million to £10.3 million on turnover that rose 12 per cent to £56.4 million.

Chris Oakley, chief executive, said the company would continue to look for acquisitions. The interim dividend, to be paid on October 24, rises



STOCK MARKET

MICHAEL CLARK

# London and New York dip on new rate fears

WORRIES that interest rates may be on the way up, unnered share prices and bonds on both sides of the Atlantic.

The latest surge in consumer spending and a call by Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, at the last monetary meeting for a rise in interest rates left investors looking distinctly gloomy. This, combined with Tuesday's worse than expected government borrowing numbers, may push the need for a rise in interest rates to the top of the agenda at next week's meeting between Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, and the Governor. Pressure for a rise in US interest rates is also growing and was responsible for an early fall of almost 25 points in the Dow Jones average last night.

Share prices in London drifted throughout the morning before closing above their worst. The FT-SE 100 index finished 16.6 points down at 3,953.7 in thin turnover with 622 million shares traded.

RTZ dropped 14.5p to 936p as SBC Warburg, the broker, cut its pre-tax profits forecast for the current year by £12 million to £935 million. P&O recovered with a rise of 1.1p to 595p helped by some positive comments from Kleinwort Benson, the broker.

AIM-listed Tradeport, a rival to the London Stock Exchange, rose 5p to 105p as it prepared to celebrate its first birthday. It accounted for 8 per cent of the 8.24 million shares traded in Grand Metropolitan, up from 48p, which means it was offering a more competitive price than the main market for much of the day.

National Power rose 3p to 396p after a trading update to brokers. PowerGen was also 8p better at 506p and there was support for London Electricity, up 7p to 618p, and Yorkshire, 5p better at 727p.

There were few surprises for shareholders at the Bass annual meeting and this was reflected in the price, which ended 1.1p higher at 79p. Sir Ian Prosser, chairman, told them that one of the best performers for the group had been its branded drinks division, which included Hocho, the alcoholic lemonade.

Worries about a possible slowdown in consumer spending brought out the profit-takers, leaving the New share price 26.1p lower at 573.1p by



Kevin Doyle, left, and Chris Miller of Wassall, up 16p

the close. Interim pre-tax profits from the group of £56 million were at the top end of expectations, with brokers like Nick Bubb at BZW upping his forecast for the full year by £3 million to £157 million.

A strong first-half performance and encouraging news about second-half prospects failed to lift Kwik-Fit Holdings, the tyre and ex-

appeared to go well, but some of those present took the view the shares had run far enough for the time being. The meeting coincided with half-year pre-tax profits more than doubled at £10.5 million.

First-quarter figures from British Biotech, this year's high-flyer, proved meaningless with the group, in fact, recording a loss of £8 million.

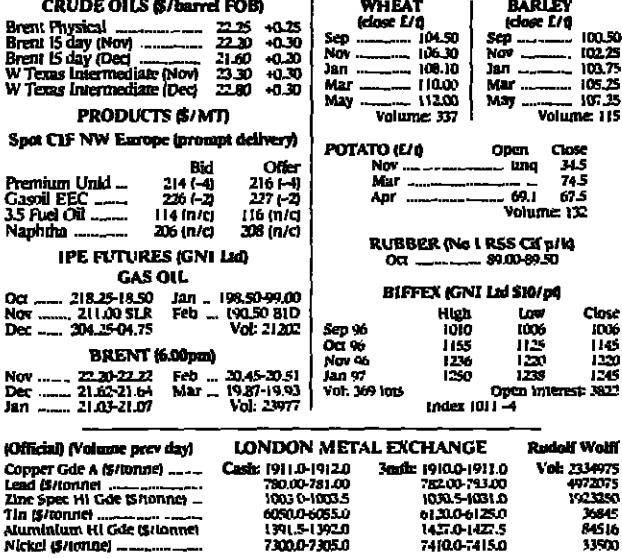
Thorn stood out with a rise of 9.1p to 373.1p, helped by NatWest Securities, the broker, which has been telling clients that recent selling of the shares has been overdone. Since the company was demerged from EMI last month the price has fallen 30p. Almost five million shares were traded.

haust fitter, which ended 4p cheaper at 244p. Pre-tax profits came in at the top end of expectations with the group expecting to reap the benefit of increased investment during the second half.

Tibbett & Britten, the logistics group, ended its recent strong run as the profit-takers moved in ending the session 3p lower at 632.2p. Yesterday's meeting with brokers

ended 1.1p higher at 79p. Sir Ian Prosser, chairman, told them that one of the best performers for the group had been its branded drinks division, which included Hocho, the alcoholic lemonade.

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Sears, which reported lower profits on Tuesday, finished 2.1p cheaper at 94.1p, while Laura Ashley, with figures out next week, firmed up to 215p.

Costain was unmoved at 59p with confirmation of almost doubled first-half losses offset by encouraging remarks about second-half trading. The group expected sales and profits to grow and interest charges and losses in the Middle East to decline.

Bryant Group rose 6.1p to 133p after hitting the acquisition trail with the purchase of Admiral Homes for the equivalent of £62.2 million.

Wassall, whose chief executive is Chris Miller, was rewarded with a rise of 16p to 308.1p after a 24 per cent increase in interim profits, before exceptional, and some positive comments about trading for the rest of the year. Brokers were also impressed with the 35 per cent rise in the half-year profit.

Hunting rose 12.5p to 153.1p with losses of £18.4 million no worse than expected. Tracker Network marked time at 53p on the back of sharply reduced losses. Britannia Assurance was unchanged at 70.4p after a profits decline. Profit setbacks failed to rattle Midland Independent Newspapers, 1.1p firmer at 130p, but left Dagenham Motors 14p lower at 123.1p.

UniChem rose 3p to 259.1p with the assistance of a useful 12 per cent increase in first-half profits. Lloyds Chemists added 5p to 503.1p.

Roxboro Group rallied 10p to 242.1p after Tuesday's 80p fall prompted by talk of a fall off in demand. But Treat, the ice cream maker, fell a further 9p to 249p, shaken by this week's comments that it is unlikely to make a profit in the second half.

GLT-EDGED: Prices retreated across the board as worries about a possible rise in interest rates resurfaced.

In the futures pit, the December series of the long gilt rose £1.22 to £107.16 as the total number of contracts completed reached 66,000.

In long, Treasury 8 per cent 2015 fell 1/8 to 159, while in shorts Treasury 8 per cent 2000 was eleven ticks off at £103.13.

NEW YORK: Shares on Wall Street were mixed after the release of the US July trade figures. By midday the Dow Jones industrial average was 11.10 points lower at 5,677.73.

## MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday):  
Dow Jones 5677.73 (-11.10)  
S&P Composite 661.80 (-1.14)

Tokyo:  
Nikkei Average 21156.75 (-153.84)

Hong Kong:  
Hang Seng 11994.03 (-27.58)

Amsterdam:  
AEX 363.16 (-1.11)

Sydney:  
ASX 2235.1 (-19.3)

Frankfurt:  
DAX 2625.70 (-2.38)

Singapore:  
Straits 2182.31 (-4.74)

Brussels:  
General 9719.18 (-25.09)

Paris:  
CAC-40 2072.73 (-4.13)

Zurich:  
SIX Gen 777.40 (-0.10)

London:  
FT 30 2836.4 (-14.3)  
FT 100 3953.7 (-16.6)  
FTSE Mid 250 4433.6 (-1.6)  
FTSE-A 350 1974.0 (-4.1)  
FTSE Euro Stoxx 100 1093.0 (-5.6)  
FT A-Share 1950.79 (-7.43)  
FT Non Financials 2353.60 (-7.88)  
FT Financials 1113.10 (-0.08)  
FT Govt Sec 93.14 (-0.18)  
Ralphine 7994.4  
SEAD Volume 622.00  
USM (Datastream) 208.09 (-0.15)  
US\$ 1.5008 (-0.0009)  
German Mark 2.3545 (-0.0022)  
Exchange Index 85.2 (-0.1)  
Bank of England official close (p.m.)  
EBCU 1.2334  
Cable 161.49 (-0.075)  
RPI 153.1 Aug (2.1%) Jan 1987-100  
RPIX 152.8 Aug (2.8%) Jan 1987-100

RECENT ISSUES

Amer Opps U Ln 100  
Barbican Health 62  
Barclay Bank Group 184  
Deutsche Bank 241  
Electronic Retail 241  
Raytheon 45  
Gardian Whalley 104  
Grosvenor Land 14  
Hambros Smir An C 65  
Hoare Govett 100 C 97  
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Life Numbers Wts 5  
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Polytech 70  
Schrod Eng Cos Wts 39  
Schrod Eng Cos 94  
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St James Place Cpt 59  
Value Realisation 70

RECENT ISSUES

Wyko Group n/p (123) 15

MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:  
Air London 167p (+35p)  
Wood (Arthur) 225p (+20p)  
Capital Ind 308p (+16p)  
Wessex 308p (+16p)  
Roxboro 242p (+10p)  
Avon Rubber 75p (+26p)  
Greenore 345p (+10p)  
Rolle & Nolan 382p (+10p)  
Bocomps Int 480p (+12p)  
Charm 700p (+17p)  
EMAP 747p (+13p)

FALLS:  
Deutsche 123p (-14p)  
First Gen 120p (-10p)  
Yorkdyke 181p (-10p)  
Corbica 238p (-12p)  
Tibbet & Brit 632p (-31p)  
Caradon 238p (-10p)  
MMT Corp 540p (-19p)  
McKendrick 527p (-14p)  
Rank Org 451p (-11p)  
Kingfisher 654p (-14p)  
Boosey Hwks 772p (-15p)

Closing Prices Page 28

## TEMPUS

### Fashionable as ever

TOO MUCH good news is sometimes bad news for companies. The fact that yesterday's strong Next results coincided with news of a 1 per cent rise in UK retail sales last month made some shareholders nervous. They saw hopes of a cut in interest rates fade, and an end to booming consumer sales loom. From there, the decision to sell Next shares was but a short step away.

But it would be a mistake to underestimate the strength of the modern Next. Its first-half retail sales were up 23 per cent from selling prices which increased just 5 per cent, giving an impressive 17 per cent rise in sales per square foot at £263.

The company says it is not worried that the growth in sales in the five weeks from August 12 slowed to 14 per cent - equivalent to around 10 per cent, like for like - and, indeed,

it is too early to worry about a setback. Few companies have been through the trauma suffered by Next in the late Eighties, and David Jones, as chief executive, and Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale, as chairman, have since proven themselves to be exceptionally light on their feet when it comes to adapting the company to changing circumstances.

Their biggest challenge will be keeping customers - particularly for ladieswear - who may be tempted away by the revived Burtons brands. But, particularly with Next Directory's potential for growth, there is no sign that the company will allow itself to fall behind. Even after yesterday's drop in share price, a forecast of a £55 million pre-tax profit means Next is on a prospective earnings multiple of 20 times. Not a bargain, but still one of the most attractive high street investments.

## Hunting

THE last two months have knocked a large amount of the stuffing out of Hunting as it suffered from the combined effects of a huge internal blunder and what some saw as political deal-making in the defence industry.

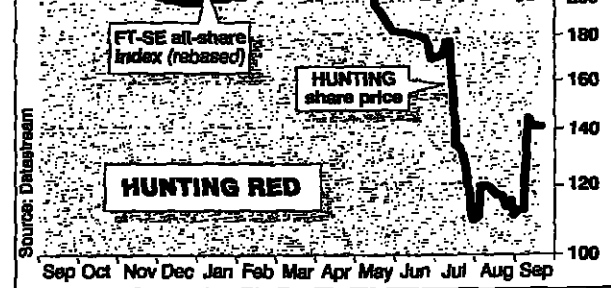
The first problem with its Dash-8 interiors contract, which led to a £30 million provision in yesterday's interim results, was enough to push the shares down 19 per cent when the company issued a warning in July. Days later, amid complaints of heavy lobbying from defence industry giants, Hunting discovered it had missed out on two major MoD bids.

Yesterday's results, therefore, came as something of a relief, with the £14.2 million pre-tax loss lower than some City expectations and analysts applauding the decision

to suspend the dividend. The provisions for the Dash-8 flags look to be generous, and the threat of a large black hole appearing in the defence business appears to have been averted with an improved order book.

The oil business was also above expectations. Clearly, the company has moved fast to tackle the management

issues, shaking up the aviation divisional team and bringing in Ernst and Young to conduct a review of the overall group's management processes and controls. A line appears to have been drawn under the problems, and while the shares are unlikely to be spectacularly exciting, they may be moving up.



## MIN

MIDLAND Independent Newspapers has its back to the wall. The company, whose titles include the Birmingham Evening Mail and the Coventry Telegraph, issued a profit warning in June and made good on it yesterday.

The company, which has seen margins slip because of the difficulty in absorbing rising newspaper costs and a costly failed bid for Emap's regional titles, has been making apologies for a share price well below its 1994 issue price of 140p.

The worst may be over - two loss-making weeks have been closed and newspaper prices have ceased to climb - but no one, including Midland's normally buoyant executives, expects a quick turnaround.

Midland may try to tough it out, gambling that rising consumer confidence and advertising revenues will eventually restore its fortunes, or it could be bold, either

making a big acquisition or seeking a buyer.

An acquisition, and there are plenty of opportunities around, could improve economies of scale while reducing the company's exposure to a single region. The danger is the risk of overpaying. Regional newspapers, as acquisition-hungry Newsquest has shown, are still hot commodities in spite of their slow but sure readership loss.

Midland may be running out of time. Unless the share price improves, management will come under increasing pressure to put the group on the auction block, and doing so may not be a bad thing.

## UniChem

IN THE game of poker between the two companies bidding for Lloyds Chemists, it was Gehe who blinked first. UniChem has taken a more sanguine view of Lloyds' deteriorating profits and the enforced sale of several of its pharmaceutical wholesaling

depots. If obstacles imposed by the MMC are overcome during the next few weeks, Gehe may be unwilling to repeat its £650 million offer.

But the German company is offering cash while UniChem will have to persuade Lloyds' shareholders to accept its paper. So they may be concerned to learn that UniChem has underperformed the FT all-share index by about 25 per cent since UniChem's last rights issue in October 1994.

UniChem's results yesterday were hit by the cost of carrying its 9.9 per cent stake. The cost of expanding Moss Chemists, the pharmacy chain, has also pushed interest costs higher. The contract to distribute to wholesalers drugs produced by Bristol-Myers Squibb looks more attractive than it perhaps is.

UniChem's shares moved 2.1p higher to 259p. While the battle over Lloyds remains unresolved, investors should be wary of buying them.

## LONDON FINANCIAL FUTURES

Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
FT-SE 100	3953.7	3961.0	3950.0	3953.0	10399
Previous open interest: 69940					
FT-SE 250	4445.0	4455.0	4445.0	4450.0	285
Previous open interest: 3890					
Three Month Sterling	94.15	94.16	94.13	94.13	5172
Previous open interest: 45796					
Three Mth Euro Yen	96.17	96.17	96.17	96.17	625
Previous open interest: 97992					
Long Gilt	108.12	108.12	108.11	108.10	1016
Previous open interest: 15009					
Japanese Govt Bond	122.10	122.37	122.10	122.36	3479
Previous open interest: 15009					
German Govt Bond	97.06	97.06	97.06	97.11	19081
Previous open interest: 21376					
Three month ECU	95.76	95.77	95.74	95.75	823
Previous open interest: 20476					
Euro Swiss Franc	97.82	97.84	97.82	97.81	8800
Previous open interest: 72363					
Italian Govt Bond	117.78	117.78	117.72	117.64	6000
Previous open interest: 9782					

Base Rates: Bank of England 5% Finance House 6%  
Discount Market: Bank of England 5% Finance House 6%  
Treasury Bills (Daily): 2m 5% 3m 5% 6m 5% 12m 5%  
Overnight: open 5% close 6%

Local Authority Depos: 5% 5% 5% 5% 5% 5%  
Sterling CDs: 5% 5% 5% 5% 5% 5%  
Building Society CDs: 5% 5% 5% 5% 5% 5%

Prime Bank Bills (Dis): 5% 5% 5% 5% 5% 5%  
Sterling Money Rates: 5% 5% 5% 5% 5% 5%  
Overnight: open 5% close 6%

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Building Society CDs: 5% 5% 5% 5% 5% 5%

Prime Bank Bills (Dis): 5% 5% 5% 5% 5% 5%  
Sterling Money Rates: 5% 5% 5% 5% 5% 5%  
Overnight: open 5% close 6%

Local Authority Depos: 5% 5% 5% 5% 5% 5%  
Sterling CDs: 5% 5% 5% 5% 5% 5%  
Building Society CDs: 5% 5% 5% 5% 5% 5%

Prime Bank Bills (Dis): 5% 5% 5% 5% 5% 5%  
Sterling Money Rates: 5% 5% 5% 5% 5% 5%  
Overnight: open 5% close 6%

Local Authority Depos: 5% 5% 5% 5% 5% 5%  
Sterling CDs: 5% 5% 5% 5% 5% 5%  
Building Society CDs: 5% 5% 5% 5% 5% 5%

Prime Bank Bills (Dis): 5% 5% 5% 5% 5% 5%  
Sterling Money Rates: 5% 5% 5% 5% 5% 5%  
Overnight: open 5% close 6%

Local Authority Depos: 5% 5% 5% 5% 5% 5%  
Sterling CDs: 5% 5% 5% 5% 5% 5%  
Building Society CDs: 5% 5% 5% 5% 5% 5%

Prime Bank Bills (Dis): 5% 5% 5% 5% 5% 5%  
Sterling Money Rates: 5% 5% 5% 5% 5% 5%  
Overnight: open 5% close 6%

Local Authority Depos: 5% 5% 5% 5% 5% 5%  
Sterling CDs: 5% 5% 5% 5% 5% 5%  
Building Society CDs: 5% 5% 5% 5% 5% 5%

Prime Bank Bills (Dis): 5% 5% 5% 5% 5% 5%  
Sterling Money Rates: 5% 5% 5% 5% 5% 5%  
Overnight: open 5% close 6%

## DOLLAR RATES

Period	Open	High	Low	Sett	Vol
Australia	1.2669-1.2677				
Belgium (Com)	31.04-31.08				
Canada	1.0113-1.0118				
Denmark	1.5113-1.5118				
France	1.5113-1.5118				
Germany	1.5113-1.5118				
Italy	1.5113-1.5118				
Japan	1.5113-1.5118				
Malaysia	2.4998-2.4998				
Netherlands	1.5113-1.5118				
Norway	1.5113-1.5118				
Portugal	1.5113-1.5118				
Singapore	1.5113-1.5118				
Spain	1.5113-1.5118				
Sweden	1.5113-1.5118				
Switzerland	1.5113-1.5118				

Argentina peso 1.5610-1.5636  
Austrian dollar 1.9771-1.9790  
Bahrian dinar 1.5980-1.5990  
Bahraini rial 1.5980-1.5990  
Brazilian cruzeiro 1.5980-1.5990  
Chinese yuan 1.5980-1.5990  
Czech koruna 1.5980-1.5990  
Danish krone 1.5980-1.5990  
Deutsche mark 1.5980-1.5990  
Euro 1.5980-1.5990  
Hong Kong dollar 1.5980-1.5990  
Indian rupee 1.5980-1.5990  
Indonesian rupiah 1.5980-1.5990  
Japanese yen 1.5980-1.5990  
Korean won 1.5980-1.5990  
Malaysian ringgit 1.5980-1.5990  
New Zealand dollar 1.5980-1.5990  
Norwegian krone 1.5980-1.5990  
Saudi Arabian riyal 1.5980-1.5990  
Singapore dollar 1.5980-1.5990  
South African rand 1.5980-1.5990  
Taiwan dollar 1.5980-1.5990  
Thai baht 1.5980-1.5990  
UK sterling 1.5980-1.5990  
US dollar 1.5980-1.5990  
Vietnamese dong 1.5980-1.5990



THE  
TIMES  
CITY  
DIARY

Another taste  
of PepsiCo

THE fizzy drinks war is still bubbling after Karl von der Heyden, a former non-executive director at Cadbury Schweppes, was yesterday appointed chief financial officer and vice-chairman of PepsiCo. Mr von der Heyden, 60, who was with PepsiCo between 1974 and 1980, has signed a one-year contract with the beverage giant. More disappointing news for Cadbury Schweppes: it heard this week that the European Commission needs more time to complete its inquiry into the £620 million sale of Coca-Cola Schweppes Beverages to Coca-Cola Enterprises.

DAVID JONES is mixing business with pleasure in launching a new range of golf clothing. The competitive chief executive of Next, who is taking lessons from his wife and son at home in Yorkshire, plays off a 21 handicap. The pinnacle of his golfing career was in Georgia when he took on Lord Wolfson of Sunningdale, chairman of Next, at Augusta, the exclusive venue of the US masters.

Smash hit

PAUL DIXON, chief executive of Dixon Motors, is celebrating the "smashing" success of his company's new flagship showroom that opened two months ago in Sheffield. Speaking at the official opening ceremony this week, he attributed the majority of the new custom to the temporary faulty traffic lights at the entrance of the two-and-a-half-acre retail development and repair centre. "They have been creating work on our very doorstep. To those unfortunate enough to have had a bump or a scratch or two at the lights, our apologies for the inconvenience, but thanks for your business."



Bubbling over

A WHIZ-KID from the LSE, Mick Jagger's alma mater, is this year's winner of the Rummikub City Competition, thrashing Rupert Lowenstein, manager of The Rolling Stones. Chris Cooper, 22, a student, beat John Davies, a partner at Roundhouse Financial Services, in the nail-biting final of the board game championship. Davies got his own back, however, when Cooper was awarded a £45 bottle of bubbly that he opened with all the skill of a hard-up student and lost the lot over the excited crowd.

Jellyfish win

REASSURING news for Gary "Jellyfish" Lineker who has been voted children's favourite financial role model, running away with 14 per cent of votes compared with Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, who was awarded a measly 1 per cent along with Madonna. Fifty per cent of parents feel awkward talking to their children about a money, according to a survey from the Association of Unit Traders and Investment Funds. When it comes to swallowing jargon, Scottish children leave their British counterparts standing 80 per cent know what VAT stands for, compared with a national average of 46 per cent.

# Make no mistake, monetary union is at heart a done deal

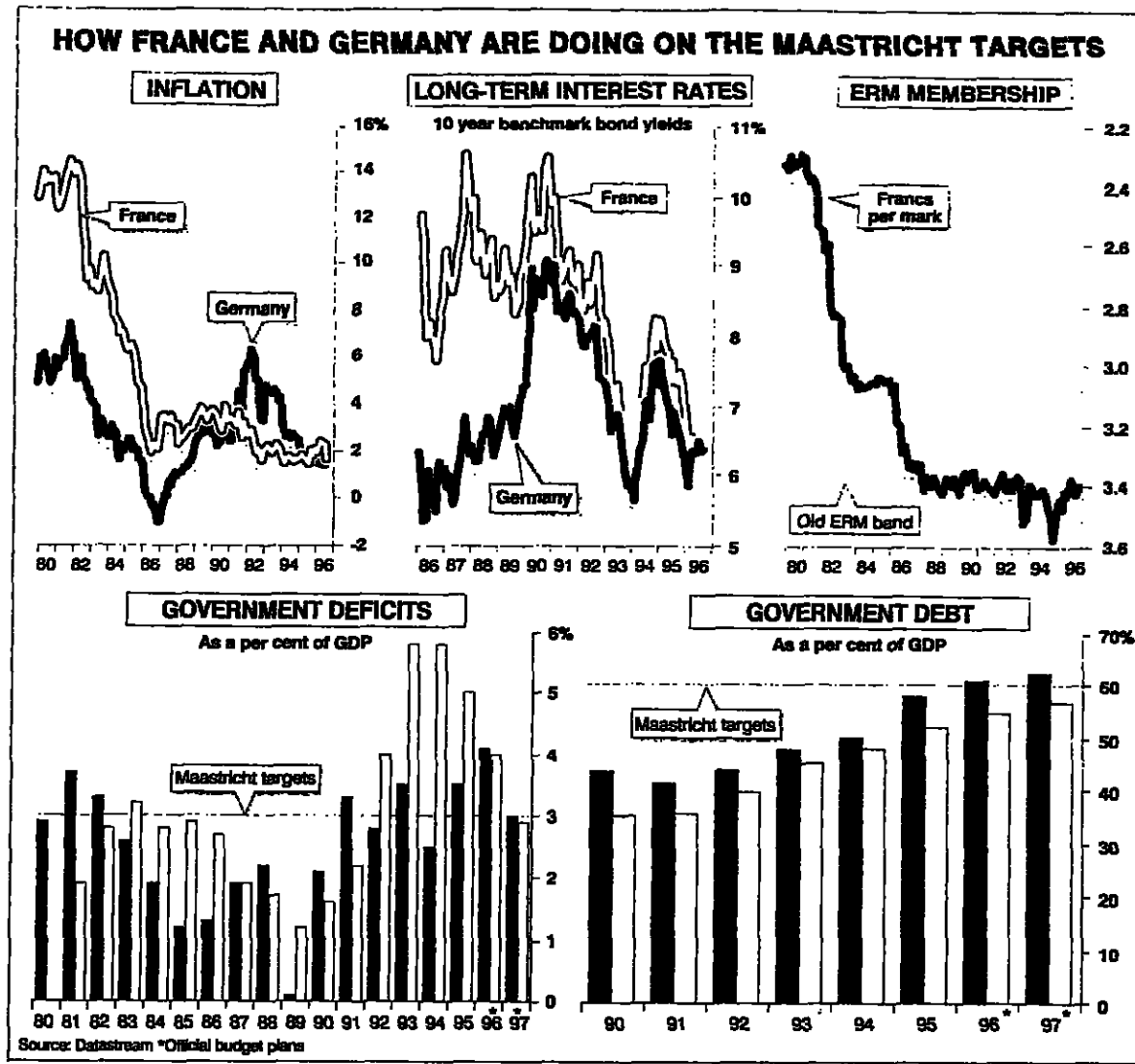
Three major events ensure there can no longer be any serious doubt that there will be a common currency

When European finance ministers meet tomorrow morning in Dublin, two of them will wear a sickeningly smug smile. European monetary union is a done deal. There can no longer be any serious doubt that Germany and France, along with a few other countries, will create a common currency after 1999. Why do I make such a categorical assertion? There have been three great breakthroughs for European monetary federalism in the past three weeks.

Three weeks ago, the German parliament passed a package of spending cuts designed to reduce the German Government deficit by 1997 to below the Maastricht target of 3 per cent of GDP. Last week France and Germany apparently agreed on the outlines of a "stability pact" to impose Teutonic fiscal discipline on members of EMU after 1999 (of which more below). And yesterday the French Government presented its 1997 budget. Not very surprisingly, this showed the French deficit also meeting the 3 per cent target. In fact, the French managed to give themselves a bit of symbolic leeway: their fiscal projections showed deficits falling steadily from 5.3 per cent last year to 4 per cent in 1996 and 2.9 per cent in 1997.

If the French and German Governments manage to stick to their budgets (which, contrary to market expectations, they just may), there could not be the slightest doubt about EMU going ahead. Neither the German constitutional court nor the German public, nor Helmut Kohl himself could stop it, since their country would be bound by a solemn treaty obligation to abandon the mark. For Germany to refuse to abide by this obligation would have roughly the same effect on Franco-German relations as a formal declaration from Bonn that the Fatherland's true borders incorporate Alsace-Lorraine. In any case, under German law, the only grounds on which the constitutional court or the Bundestag could block EMU would be that the Maastricht convergence criteria had not been properly satisfied. Therefore, if France and Germany both hit the 3 per cent target, there would not even be a case for the judges to hear or for the deputies to debate.

But wait a minute. All these are hypothetical statements. They all rest on the premise that Germany and France will actually hit their fiscal targets — and almost nobody believes this, at least in the case of France. While most observers have been impressed by Herr Kohl's ability to push genuine cuts in public spending through the German parliament, the reaction to the French budget yesterday was a sceptical yawn. The French growth projections were generally viewed as over-optimistic. The cuts in government spending were smaller than expected. And worst of all, roughly half the reduction in next year's deficit was simply the result of an accounting trick. The Trésor had "agreed" with the government-appointed management of France Telecom to accept a one-off payment of Fr375 billion, equivalent to roughly 0.5 per cent of GDP, in exchange for taking over some of the state-owned company's



pensions obligations. In the eyes of many market analysts this manifestly fraudulent device has discredited the whole French budget. But as happens so often, the market's instant reaction may be exactly wrong. By relying on accounting tricks rather than genuine policy changes, the French actually make it more likely that they will hit their budget targets. For one thing, accounting tricks cause no political pain (at least until the money has to be found to pay France Telecom's future pensioners). They are not going to be abandoned in response to street protests — as were many of the French Government's more serious efforts to cut public spending. But the

court in Germany and the central bankers on the European Monetary Institute? Let us suppose for a moment that the central bankers and judges did have the courage (or arrogance) to denounce the elected governments of Europe as liars — and not on a moral principle, but on a minor point of national income accounting. The politicians would still have two trump cards up their sleeves.

First they would play the stability pact. The most cogent objection to the French accounting gimmicks is that they are one-off devices, which simply transfer money from one year to another and would therefore leave government deficits in future years higher than in 1997. But with a stability pact supposedly guaranteeing the maintenance of low deficits in the future, this objection would immediately fall. In this sense the stability pact and the one-off accounting gimmicks are two sides of the same

coin. That is presumably why France has suddenly become much more amenable to the German demands for such a stability pact — knowing full well that the fines and other sanctions enshrined in such a pact are unlikely ever to prove enforceable in practice. The second trump card would be even more powerful. It is the Maastricht treaty itself. The treaty states that each country's readiness for EMU must be judged by "the achievement of a high degree of sustainable convergence by reference to four criteria". Recently all attention has focused on just one of these criteria — "sustainability of government financial positions", as defined by the deficit and public debt targets. But the other three criteria — price stability, currency stability and convergence of long-term

**In the end EMU will not be settled by economists but by lawyers and politicians**

interest rates — are given just as much weight in the treaty. The treaty does not make clear whether the four criteria must be judged separately or together for each country. But imagine a situation in which one of the four criteria is missed by a hair's breadth — and a very debatable hair's breadth at that — while the other three are met conclusively and without the slightest room for any dispute. Suppose, further, that the convergence achieved on the other criteria is many times closer than the treaty envisaged. That is, in fact, almost certain to happen. The inflation criterion requires the inflation rates of EMU members to be within 1.5 percentage points of each other; today the gap is less than 0.5 percentage points. The interest rate criterion requires bond yields to be within 2 percentage points. Today French and German bonds yields are less than 0.1 per cent apart. The exchange rate criterion requires membership of the ERM within the normal fluctuation bands. Since 1993 the ERM bands have been 15 per cent wide, but the Bundesbank has never accepted these as the "normal" margins and now it looks like both France and Germany are determined to keep their currencies within the old 2.25 per cent bands. On all these criteria, therefore, the Maastricht convergence programme could easily be judged a triumph. And furthermore, a glance at history (or the charts above) show that recent fiscal deficits might easily be called "temporary and exceptional", as the treaty allows. As an economist I could argue endlessly against monetary union. But if I were a lawyer, I would not accept a case with the odds stacked against me like this. And in the end EMU will not be settled by economists but by lawyers and politicians.

□ From next week Economic View will appear on Fridays.

## Designer duds for the corporate uniform market

Businesses are seeking exclusive and distinctive images, says Susan Gray

Top hotel and restaurant staff are often better dressed than their customers it now seems as fashion designers make inroads in the corporate uniform market. Although airlines and perfume houses have long been using designers to create a look for their staff, investment in fashionable outfits across the service sector is relatively new. The present interest in corporate designer clothes goes beyond the Eighties corporate image where a uniform look was thought to secure high sales. Miranda Potocary, a London-based designer, says businesses are now looking to fashion designers to give them exclusivity and distinction in the market place. "If you go out to dinner in the West End, you don't want to see the staff in the same clothes as the restaurant down the road." She has just designed the managers' outfit of the newly opened Café de Paris near



Isabell Kristensen with staff from the Clementine restaurant at the Churchill Hotel

hard-wearing quality less of a problem. From a designer's point of view, fabric quality gives corporate work the edge over producing ranges for high street retailers. From the business side, the cost of briefing a designer is justified by originality, payment quality

### BUSINESS LETTERS

#### Challenge of competing for the green markets of the future

From the Shadow Secretary of State for Environmental Protection  
Sir, I was delighted to read the Executive Voice commentary by Terry Thomas, managing director of the Co-operative Bank (Business News, September 14). It is clear that the bank has adopted a creative green strategic approach to its business, which other banks and companies would do well to follow. The recent United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) report on engaging stakeholders emphasises the importance of involving both employees and customers in developing genuinely environmentally sustainable strategies for business. The challenge for British business is to combine wealth with careful resource management, and to recognise that consumers do not want to live in an environment polluted by the production process, however profitable it may be. Recently, Tony Blair opened the National Centre for Business and Ecology at the University of Salford, sponsored by the Co-operative Bank and four Greater Manchester universities. This important new institution will help to support the creative partnerships of banks, businesses, local authorities and academic institutions that we need for the future. It will support the Agenda 21 decisions of the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development. And it will help to give added utility to the new Green Accounts issued for the first time last month by the Office of National Statistics. Green business can be profitable. The global market for pollution abatement technology alone is expected to amount to £400 billion a year by the end of the decade. The future of the British economy will depend on our success in competing for the environmentally friendly markets of the future. It is not the least of the challenges that will face the incoming Labour government seeking to develop policies for a stakeholder society. Yours faithfully, MICHAEL MEACHER, House of Commons, SW1.

#### Interest overdue on late payments It Asda be more balanced

From Mr John Good  
Sir, As a retired trade association executive I note that late payment is on the agenda again. I have lost count of the pronouncements on this subject by the CBI and its predecessor the FBI. Now we are to have a standard, voluntary of course! When will the Government, which professes to value the contribution of small firms to the economy, and the trade organisations accept that exhortations, codes of practice and standards will not protect the weak seller from a strong buyer. The persistence of the problem is surely the strongest argument for a statutory right to charge interest on overdue accounts. Yours faithfully, JOHN GOOD, 14 Garden Royal, Kersfield Road, SW15.

From Mr David Stone  
Sir, Your piece "Asda adds six stores" (Business News, September 12) reports that the result will be the creation of 2,700 new jobs next year. I have some trouble with this apparently laudable outcome, in that assuming Asda's aims are: 1 to increase market share; 2 to increase productivity; 3 to increase profits. The inevitable conclusion must be, in the absence of significant increase in consumption, an overall loss of full-time jobs in the UK economy, ie, those jobs shed by their smaller/weaker competitors who, typically, source from the UK. This may be a good or bad thing, I don't know, but I would welcome more balanced reporting of chairmen's statements and PR releases. Yours faithfully, DAVID STONE, 4 Priory Road, Lakeside, Newent, Gloucestershire.

#### Matthew Clark's origins not so humble

From Mr Francis Gordon Clark  
Sir, Enough of the "humble origins" (Pennington, September 13). Matthew Clark was founded in 1810 and became a public company in 1953. From then until 1990 it produced steady growth for its shareholders without once asking them for cash. Between 1975 and 1989 its profits increased tenfold and earnings per share rose from 5.6p to 44.4p (exactly the same figure given for 1996). It was distributor for, or owner of, more brand leaders than any other independent company in the wine and spirit sector and was respected for its skill in looking after them. Journalists, analysts and investors who have been in the game for seven years or

more would agree that Matthew Clark was a well-regarded, well-managed company with loyal, long-term, satisfied institutional shareholders. Do you recall the fiasco of Warren Plantation's dawn raid?

Capitalised at about £50 million, it was not large, but, with names like Marriott, De Kuyper, Tattinger, Graham, Stones, Old England, Grand Marnier, Charreux, Benedictine, Fundador and the Irish Distillers brands of Jameson and Bushmills, humble it emphatically was not. Yours faithfully, FRANCIS GORDON CLARK (Previous Chairman, Matthew Clark (Holdings) Plc), Manor Farm House, Lasham, Alton, Hampshire.

Letters to the Business and Finance section of The Times can be sent by fax on 0171-782 5112.

proud that working at the Churchill means something different." Dark mauve was chosen to complement the light greens and grey marble of the Churchill lobby. Mr Cowdrey says the look created fits in with the current ambience of the Clementine restaurant, lobby and bar and should last for another two or three years. If the hotel changes the concept of the restaurant, lobby and bar before then, it will look at uniforms afresh. Mr Cowdrey estimates that commissioning Ms Kristensen cost about £50,000, with replacement uniforms running at £150 for a waiter's waistcoat and trousers to £500 for a doorman with a top hat, winter and summer coat. The design is worn by all the front-of-house staff except the restaurant manager, who wears a dark suit. "Isabell has given the Churchill branding, and the feedback from customers is very positive," Mr Cowdrey says. Companies seeking a designer look without paying designer prices can turn to

corporate range by Elizabeth Emanuel, designer to Diana, Princess of Wales. Marcel Plesner, managing director, says: "Women managers demand a softer look and the Emanuel name is certainly helping to sell the range." Mr Plesner is critical of major corporate uniform suppliers that dress female managers in the same quality and cut of fabric as housekeeping staff. With individual items priced under £100, retail Emanuel is more affordable than couture. Female customers have been more conservative than Mr Plesner anticipated. "Our best seller is the navy management suit, and skirts are far more popular than trousers." Having worked with London College of Fashion students to design waiters' and busboys' uniforms on Orient Lines's MV Marco Polo, Mr Plesner says he may introduce more designer ranges. Walters has an annual turnover of £500,000 and supplies formal morning suits to everyone from the cast of Yes Minister to freemasons' lodges worldwide. chm



**TRADING PERIOD:** Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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1996 High Low Company Price Bid Ask PT										1996 High Low Company Price Bid Ask PT									
1280	30.5	Heaton	42	1578	21	44	20.7	508	208	Union Comm	507	5	26	15.7					
1281	31	Heaton	42	1579	21	44	20.7	509	209	Union Comm	508	5	26	15.7					
1282	31	Heaton	42	1580	21	44	20.7	510	210	Union Comm	509	5	26	15.7					
1283	31	Heaton	42	1581	21	44	20.7	511	211	Union Comm	510	5	26	15.7					
1284	31	Heaton	42	1582	21	44	20.7	512	212	Union Comm	511	5	26	15.7					
1285	31	Heaton	42	1583	21	44	20.7	513	213	Union Comm	512	5	26	15.7					
1286	31	Heaton	42	1584	21	44	20.7	514	214	Union Comm	513	5	26	15.7					
1287	31	Heaton	42	1585	21	44	20.7	515	215	Union Comm	514	5	26	15.7					
1288	31	Heaton	42	1586	21	44	20.7	516	216	Union Comm	515	5	26	15.7					
1289	31	Heaton	42	1587	21	44	20.7	517	217	Union Comm	516	5	26	15.7					
1290	31	Heaton	42	1588	21	44	20.7	518	218	Union Comm	517	5	26	15.7					
1291	31	Heaton	42	1589	21	44	20.7	519	219	Union Comm	518	5	26	15.7					
1292	31	Heaton	42	1590	21	44	20.7	520	220	Union Comm	519	5	26	15.7					
1293	31	Heaton	42	1591	21	44	20.7	521	221	Union Comm	520	5	26	15.7					
1294	31	Heaton	42	1592	21	44	20.7	522	222	Union Comm	521	5	26	15.7					
1295	31	Heaton	42	1593	21	44	20.7	523	223	Union Comm	522	5	26	15.7					
1296	31	Heaton	42	1594	21	44	20.7	524	224	Union Comm	523	5	26	15.7					
1297	31	Heaton	42	1595	21	44	20.7	525	225	Union Comm	524	5	26	15.7					
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1301	31	Heaton	42	1599	21	44	20.7	529	229	Union Comm	528	5	26	15.7					
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1321	31	Heaton	42	1619	21	44	20.7	549	249	Union Comm	548	5	26	15.7					
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1351	31	Heaton	42	1649	21	44	20.7	579	279	Union Comm	578	5	26	15.7					
1352	31	Heaton	42	1650	21	44	20.7	580	280	Union Comm	579	5	26	15.7					
1353	31	Heaton	42	1651	21	44	20.7	581	281	Union Comm	580	5	26	15.7					
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# ACCOUNTANCY

## Directors will not go wrong following example of auditors

By CLIVE BOXER

IN THE United Kingdom we have a habit of latching on to the wrong point, and miss the right point. Thus structural weaknesses are ignored. We have one in corporate governance.

It is wrong continually to criticise the level of salaries of top executives entitled to the maximum their fellow directors believe they should receive. They are the exception, not the rule, and set targets for everybody. We should confine our complaints to the level of compensation the high-flyers receive after losing their jobs.

They are well-rewarded for the wrong reason. The non-executive directors who should be making the important corporate governance decisions are powerless and ineffective. They are only too pleased to have scapegoats highly paid with massive pension rights and potential contractual claims if there is a sudden dismissal. That gives them a sacrifice for their own ineffectiveness.

A director is not liable for other directors' misdoings — only for his or her own. Therefore, the less you do as a non-executive director, the less likely you are to be a culprit for what goes wrong. The House of Lords recently ruled that a person injured by a defendant at a junction where the view was obscured could not get damages from a highway authority which was aware of the danger. The authority has a duty to provide highways, maintain them and remove danger. Was it liable for doing nothing when it was aware of a risk?

Lord Hoffman pointed out that there is a big difference in the law between requiring one who acts to take reasonable care not to cause damage to others, and a person who does nothing in particular to take steps to prevent another from suffering harm from the acts

of third parties or natural causes. He justified the reasoning that omission is not as serious as commission, on political, moral and economic grounds. The moral ground was referred to as the "why pick on me" argument, which could be the secret code of conduct of non-executive directors.

All that would change if the directors of the board had joint and several liability for each other's actions. This is what occurs inside partnerships. The audits of companies are, for the most part, carried out by a relatively small team of experts whose failings make every partner in the firm personally liable for the negligence perpetrated by the team.

In a partnership there is a very hands-on approach to most matters because the partners are personally liable for what is going on at the very lowest level. This is not so with a board of directors, which has a potential culprit already prepared for the chop, and compensation to go with it. The non-executives should be paid more and be responsible for what goes wrong at an executive level.

All it requires is an implied joint and several liability of the directors for the actions of each other in their role as directors. There will be no increase in duties or liabilities. Our law is sensible in the way it operates, except that at the present time each director is only liable for his own actions or omissions. Non-executive directors are, therefore, only too pleased to vote the most they can to those they intend to blame if something goes wrong.

If this significant change was made, non-executive directors would take more interest in what is going on; their rewards would increase and they would be less inclined to approve enormous salaries to the chief executives; the number of di-

rectorships held by non-executives would go down; supervisory boards of non-executives would oversee executive boards so that the non-executive directors would not serve alongside those who could make them seriously liable.

At the moment, corporate governance is reduced to disqualifying directors after the insolvent collapse of a company. What is required to prevent the entrepreneurial genius from getting out of control without curtailing initiative is the same approach that applies within the professions, namely joint and several responsibility. This minor amendment to the law would have this effect.

Clive Boxer is a consultant with Davies Arnold Cooper.

## Leaving people happier and wiser

THERE can be joy in accountancy. Anyone who was at last week's annual Scots ICA summer conference in St Andrews would understand that. It has become a unique occasion in the accounting calendar. It is a time for Scots accountants to get together, to listen to some of the best business and financial thoughts of the day, to discuss the issues and to have a thoroughly good time.

This year saw three stunning case studies: Ian Russell, Scottish Power's finance director, Brian Stewart, Scottish & Newcastle chief executive, and Derek Hunt, the chairman of MFI, made a powerful trio. All gave their thoughts on growth and strategy and how their organisations had approached those challenges.

The point about such quality of contributors and how the conference brings out the best in them is the concentration on relaxing. Each of the talks is mullered over by discussion groups in private and ideas brought to plenary session to draw the speakers' comments. It is not a formal

business environment so people such as Derek Hunt speak more directly and plainly than normally. The value is immense.

The discussion groups embrace a wide range of experience. In one there was a gap of almost 60 years between the qualification dates of two participants. Sir Ian Morrow, the legendary company doctor, qualified as a Scots CA in 1936. The younger of the group qualified with a lively Edinburgh firm only last year.

Sir Ian passed on anecdotes of experience to illustrate topics such as the dearth of entrepreneurs with staying power in Scotland. The newly qualified CA told him how the exam system should be reformed. The groups provide low-key but informed discussion. Having Derek Hunt sit in and talk about the importance of cashflow taught people more about how management really works than any business school course ever could.

And there is, of course, the social side. The Scots institute is a small accounting body.



ROBERT BRUCE

Its members stick together and build close networks.

There is still the end of conference ceilidh — post-dinner entertainment created by the members. People bring fiddles and play jigs. Others create sketches and songs. This year's highlight was probably the dramatic re-creation, involving the president and chief executive of the Canadian ICA, of The Shooting of Dan

McGrew. Though the appearance of the Scots chief executive, Peter Johnstone, as the vengeful miner, "with a face most hair and the dreary state of a dog whose day is done", upstaged them both. The evening, by now teetering on morning, ends with piping and dancing.

In short, the conference is the sort of event that leaves people happier and wiser. And that may be its problem. For conferences like this, which take a couple of days or more off the diary, have fallen foul of the frenetic insistence on avoiding thought. The large accounting firms, whose natural habitat such events used to be, now encourage a culture where a combination of astonishing and burgeoning internal bureaucracy combined with an insistence on exclusive loyalty measured almost solely through long hours has eradicated the thoughtful. The result is that fewer and fewer accountants feel that they can justify not being at their desk for more than a few hours.

This is crushing the profession. Events such as this are

the ones that give you time to gain new ideas and reassess old ones. The insistence by the accountancy firms in particular that such processes are superfluous is a criminal and pernicious destruction of the central value of the profession.

It is significant that the institute president, Robert Smith, chief executive of Morgan Grenfell Development Capital, spoke with great passion to members. He had been in London overnight heading the internal investigation into the Morgan Grenfell's European fund.

He talked generally about the essence of being a professional. "Be dead honest. Be dead straight and blow whistles. A system is growing up which says that if there is a manual then you have covered yourself and your actions. Right and wrong don't seem to exist any more. And we all know in our hearts when something is right or wrong."

Those principles are what an event like the Scots summer conference builds. Long may it flourish.

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Clive Boxer champions joint and several liability for directors

### ANY OTHER BUSINESS

#### 'Bearding' the Scots in their den

IN TIMES past the person with the hardest time of it at the Scots ICA annual conference has always been the chief executive of the English ICA. He has had to endure insults of tartan and ruder hues being hurled at him.

Times are becoming calmer these days. But it was thought significant at the conference last week that Andrew Colquhoun had chosen this time of year to shave off his beard of the past 25 years. Several people claimed to fail to recognise him.

But the act has rejuvenated him. Unlike Samson, the loss of his beard has galvanised the man. In the early hours of Saturday morning he could be seen indulging in a hugely energetic "Dashing White Sergeant" amid the chaos of the closing ceilidh.

#### 99 not out

SCOTS accountants are famed for their longevity. So

appropriate anniversaries. Robert Smith, the institute president, found himself congratulating one member recently on completing 70 years in practice.

The lady concerned is 99 years old. "And furthermore," said Smith in tones of mounting incredulity, "it had to be delivered to her office because she was at work."

#### Letters lament

THE myriad of accountancy qualifications can baffle. At last week's Scots ICA annual conference there was a spirited discussion of the quality of finance directors.

Derek Hunt, chairman of MFI, was singing the praises of two recent finance directors the company has had. Mr Smith, the Scots institute leader, tried to explain to the audience that neither of the MFI men were Scots CAs but were members of the CIMA, the management accounting body.

"They are both CIMA-qualified," he interjected. "What does that mean?" responded a puzzled Hunt.

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مَكْنَزٌ مِنَ الْأَصْلِ





**FILM 1**  
Body-flaunting routines and family values don't mix well in Demi Moore's latest, *Striptease*



**FILM 2**  
Cue the noise, the violence and familiar action: Kurt Russell roars back with *Escape from L.A.*

## THE ARTS



**FILM 3**  
Oscar-winning *Antonia's Line* presents feisty feminist wisdoms in a Dutch farming village



**FILM 4**  
... while *The Incredibly True Adventure of Two Girls in Love* offers good value for \$60,000

CINEMA: Demi Moore takes most of her clothes off in *Striptease*. Geoff Brown is not terribly impressed by the results



"Teasing comes hard: she is always gleaming, always on show": Demi Moore practises her go-thither look

# Moore is less, if you want the naked truth

**D**emi Moore is becoming the female answer to Sylvester Stallone or Arnold Schwarzenegger. She is more sculpture than human being, a lean machine carved out on a thousand exercise bikes. And since her new film is called *Striptease*, she has plenty of chances to advertise her wares.

To earn money while fighting a legal battle over custody of her daughter, her character, Erin Grant, strips at a Florida club. She writhes. She wriggles. She feels her body, especially when listening to songs by Annie Lennox. Total nudity, bar a G-string, is achieved after 60 minutes.

Moore, always a difficult actress to warm to, is especially forbidding in *Striptease*. Teasing comes hard: she is always gleaming, always on show. Aside from flaunting the body beautiful, she flaunts herself as a caring mother. True, the script, derived from a novel by Carl Hiaasen, asks her to; but the mawkish indulgence of the scenes with the daughter (Moore's real-life offspring Rumer Willis) goes way beyond the call of duty.

Maybe we would feel the pain less if the writer and director, comedy specialist Andrew Bergman, exerted a strong grip. But he dawdles. He digresses. One moment the film revels in raunchy nudity; the next it cuddles up to family values. One scene will swipe at Florida sleaze and political hypocrisy; the next aims at heart-tugging melodrama. You never know where you are.

Do you remember Snake Plissken? It was 15 years ago. A maverick felon, dressed in straggly hair, eye-patch and grunge, he was forced to rescue the American President from the walled prison island of Manhattan. If your memory fails you, fear not: for John Carpenter's *Escape from L.A.* peddles much the same plot as his *Escape from New York*. The star is the same, Kurt Russell. The eye-patch is the same. Even the film's quality is similar; aside from some upgrading in movie technology, this is the same blowsy kind of action movie.

As usual in Carpenter's recent movies, there are glimpses of better things. The vein of satire that surfaced in *They Live* pokes through once more, but time and again imagination gets trampled by commercial imperatives. The noise is turned up. Violence rages. And darkness rules, draining much of the pleasure we might otherwise get from seeing LA in futuristic dress (the film takes place in 2013).

Snake's job is to save President Cliff Robertson's neck, and wrinkle out a stolen doomsday weapon from the anarchists who thrive in LA's ruins. The assignment takes muscle, nerve, but not much humour; and the dull bark of Kurt Russell's voice soon stamps out any sparks of pleasure from peripheral characters such as Steve Buscemi's shifty "Map to the Stars" Eddie, or Peter Fonda's eternal surfer.

The Dutch film-maker Marleen Gorris made her name in the early 1980s with two striking and prickly features, *A Question of Silence* and *Broken Mirror*, both of which poured lots of energy into being nasty about the male sex. The director is still a committed feminist in *Antonia's Line*, although her style is much less confrontational, the tone one of celebration, not complaint. If *Antonia* were an earlier Gorris heroine, she'd be slaving away in a brothel, or handcuffed for murdering a rapist. Instead, the lady flourishes,

**Striptease**  
Odeon West End, 15, 117 mins  
Demi Moore strips while Burt Reynolds watches  
**Escape from L.A.**  
Empire, 15, 101 mins  
Blowsy action fare from John Carpenter  
**Antonia's Line**  
Curzon Mayfair, 15, 102 mins  
Oscar-winning feel-good movie  
**The Incredibly True Adventure of Two Girls in Love**  
Metro, 15, 98 mins  
Gauche but sweet tale of lesbian teenagers  
**Quantanamera**  
Metro, 15, 114 mins  
Tame Cuban satire

Virgin Mary — sit ill with the film's gentle flow.  
Female bonding of a different kind forms the subject of *The Incredibly True Adventure of Two Girls in Love*, a gauche little American independent film shot for \$60,000 in 21 days. Maria Maggenti, the director, has shorts and documentaries to her credit, although there are few signs of technical polish: the camera rarely seems to be in the right place at the right time, and she allows the acting of subsidiary characters to get unpleasantly shrill.

**B**ut the film's lack of finesse must be weighed against its sweet disposition and the ease with which it welcomes lesbians into the teen movie genre. Rich, clever black girl Evie needs her tyre pressure checked; garage hand Randy happily obliges. Soon they explore each others' interests, hold hands tentatively, and run the gauntlet of friends and family. Maggenti's script is very hit-and-miss, but her two lead actors, Laurel Holloman and Nicole Parker, have enough natural charm to survive most hazards, even quotations from Walt Whitman.

The late Cuban director Tomás Gutiérrez Alea was already seriously ill with cancer when he made *Quantanamera*. Since the story concerns the misadventures of a funeral cortege, he could be forgiven for signs of directorial fumbling. But we are still left with a tame, lame film that falls a long way below his 1960s triumphs, let alone 1993's *Strawberry and Chocolate*. Externally, things look upbeat. The sunshine beats down. The music is peppy (it includes, of course, the popular title song). And Martha Ibarra delights as the mourning niece who gets a second shot at love. But the pace is lethargic, while the digs at the country's bureaucracy and crumbling infrastructure scarcely count as satire. A sad memorial.

### MYSTERIES OF ANCIENT CHINA

Richard Cork continues his daily series on the British Museum's magnificent Mysteries of Ancient China show

#### LAMP IN THE FORM OF A TREE

DISCOVERED in a sizeable, undisturbed brick tomb in Henan province, this delightful lamp was positioned next to a ceramic banquet table. The tomb's occupant must have hoped that it would illuminate the feast he would hold there.

The tree itself evokes the worlds of the immortals. A mountain is depicted on the base, where a couple of seated human figures are surrounded by a flurry of wolves, stags, pigs, monkeys, tigers and toads, all chasing each other.

The central pillar, decorated with four cicadas, rests on a turtle's back and supports the main lamp's base. As if to emphasise the object's magical power, four immortals ride winged dragons out of the shallow basin. Above them, a dozen undulating branches thrust their way up from the



lamp's trunk. Finally, an ample bird, a pearl in its beak, flies over the tree top. The eight winged beings beneath symbolise the prospect of rebirth.

● *Mysteries of Ancient China*, sponsored by The Times, is at the British Museum until Jan 5. Admission £5; bookings on 0171-420 0000

TOMORROW: Figure of a Dancer

## 'Lacks real depth'

Every week, young film fans discuss the latest releases...

**STRIPTEASE:** Tom Newton, 22: A great Friday night post-pub film; what a shame I watched it on a Monday morning. The cheap and admittedly funny gags lose colour quite easily. Demi Moore was great, but I don't think my opinion was formed by an appreciation of her acting talents.

**Sophie Hobbs, 22:** Light entertainment with a simple storyline. The film is comical, but as a work it lacks real depth. The plot is predictable and the impression disappointing.

**Rob Kendall, 21:** Calling a film *Striptease* and having Demi Moore as the star appeared to be a cheap way to attract an audience. It was. Although there were some amusing moments, the subplot was unconvincing. If you watch the film for the dancing girls, Pandora Peaks is unmissable. Worth seeing, I suppose, but for the same price you could see it live in Soho.

**Rachel Peirse, 20:** Moore is a little mechanical in this vaguely entertaining farce. Burt Reynolds was an amusing



deviant Congressman. I wouldn't see it again.

#### ESCAPE FROM L.A.

Tom: I liked *Escape from New York* so much — the underworld debauchery of man left to himself really appeals to me. I thought the makers made the least of a potentially fascinating futuristic projection.

**Sophie:** An entertaining non-stop action-packed film. The special effects are good, but the film lacks originality. The violence at times verges on the monotonous. It's worth a watch if you enjoy futuristic films, but don't get your hopes up.

**Rob:** I certainly preferred *Escape from New York* to this. Despite a huge budget some of the special effects appear to be cartoons. None of the characters was developed and the story-line was bare, but the film is entertaining.

**Rachel:** Quite exciting. It has cult appeal with its themes of semi-clad depravity and futuristic pessimism. Ultimately, though, I was bored.

#### ANTONIA'S LINE:

Tom: This is the sort of film that should make Hollywood and all who work in it redundant. The most powerful cinematic exposition of feminism I've seen, put across in the subtlest of ways.

**Sophie:** A thought-provoking and endearing story, which covers 50 years of Dutch life. The characters are intriguing and excellently portrayed. The underlying themes are subtly interwoven and the result is a profound and striking tale. Not to be missed.

**Rob:** Fascinating characters, most of them crazy. The film is very witty but also has a serious philosophical undertone.

**Rachel:** A funny yet poignant exploration of universal fears. It was visually imaginative

## More brief encounters

What is on offer in Channel 4's latest foray into the world of shorts?

the alienated or the handicapped. Ged Haney's *The Kings of Siam* is about Siamese twins who have divergent ambitions to be a World Cup footballer and a pop star.

Young film-makers like the mystic and can't stand bigotry: one of the marathons is collectively titled *Heavenly Pursuits*.

When the films deal with sexuality they tend to be generous and unbiased. From Ireland, Orna Walsh's *Bent Out of Shape* (showing next week) is a sophisticated and constantly unexpected study of working class sexual attitudes, seen from

the viewpoint of a gay student working in a sleazy video shop.

All but a handful of the films come from English-speaking countries, with 18 from Australia and New Zealand and a mere five from America. But the Americans outshine the rest in pace and polish. Mike Bernadotte's *A Little Worm* is a black-and-white exercise in pure style, based on a childhood experience of Larry Adler, when the prodigy of the harmonica encountered the king of the underworld, Al Capone. Peggy Rajski's *Trevor*, showing next week, won the 1994 Academy Award for Best Live Action Short, and is a seriously wise comedy about a 13-year-old boy who dreams of being Diana Ross. This one alone is well worth staying awake for.

DAVID ROBINSON

● The Shooting Gallery season continues next Tuesday on Channel 4  
● Channel 4's booklet, *Short, Sharp Shots — A Guide to Low and No-Budget Filmmaking*, is available (£2) from The Shooting Gallery, PO Box 4000, London W5 2GH

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Antonia's Line

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CAUTION: DO NOT DRINK WHEN YOU WANT TO SLEEP









## THEATRE 1

Ted Hughes reveals how he translated *Blood Wedding* for Tim Supple's new production



## THEATRE 2

*The Oedipus Plays* transfer magnificently to the Olivier in Peter Hall's production

## THE TIMES ARTS



## MUSIC 1

Rostropovich joins the LSO to premiere a new concerto — but the result is disappointing



## MUSIC 2

... while at Covent Garden the Great Autumn *Bohème* Marathon rolls on with a new cast

THEATRE: Benedict Nightingale sees Sophocles transferred to London; plus Ted Hughes on *Blood Wedding*

Masked men: Peter Gordon as the Old Shepherd (front) and Alan Howard as Oedipus (rear)

## Blinded in moral amazement

THE front-line dispatches from Epidauros, where Peter Hall's revival of Sophocles played earlier this month, must have left many readers excited but nervous. How would those masked, stylised performers fare when they left that vast stone arc, with its built-in magic and atmosphere-enhancing moon, and were transplanted to the modest stage we know as the Olivier? The answer is clear well before Alan Howard's Oedipus stumbles onstage, blood leaking down from the bandage that covers his eyes. Impressively and, at times, magnificently.

Oedipus is the victim of fate, doomed to kill his father and marry his mother. But he is also the victim of his own free will, for it is his unflin-

ing determination to sleuth out truth that causes his downfall. When you watch Howard in his splendid red-black robes, confidently pacing the heavy brick walkway that juts from the iron wall behind him, you cannot miss the paradox. This is a magnetic, responsible ruler brought low less by hubris than by moral fineness.

But both the performance and the production run obvious risks. Howard has always been apt to play virtuoso tunes on that private cello, his voice; and here he soars and dips in ways that would certainly seem affected if he were in doublet and hose, let alone a business suit. But what else should we expect, given Hall's many reminders that Greek drama had its

origins in ritual? The actors face the audience when conversing. Ranjit Bolt has provided them with a rhymed, iambically regular translation. And all you can see behind the masks is the flash of an eye or tongue.

The Oedipus Plays  
Olivier

As Hall demonstrated when he used them in *The Oresteia* 14 years ago, masks are surprisingly flexible. The citizens in *Oedipus Rex* have a permanently guileless, startled look, yet they can express anything from hope to anguish to despair. In *Oedipus at Colonus*, Greg Hicks's

Polynices somehow manages to shift from ambitious expectation to open-mouthed panic without displacing a facial atom. But the masks also help to explain why the emotions on display keep their distance. The evening is always gripping, seldom gut-wrenching: an oratorio of suffering. Even so, pity is not wholly banished by terror. There are intimate and even touching moments, several involving Howard himself. He and Suzanne Bertish's Jocasta suddenly huddle together as danger nears. Blind and frightened, he clutches at the daughters. Pip Donaghy's slippery Creon has tried to abduct. The Oedipus who approaches apotheosis at Colonus, and ends up transformed into one of Athens's

minor deities, looks like Ezekiel as he might have been sculpted by Donatello. He is still larger than life; but there is vulnerability here too.

That is surely Hall's main achievement. Yes, his production has its visually striking moments. He handles the chorus in *Oedipus Rex* especially well, and his designer, Dionysis Fotopoulos, memorably turns the prophet Teiresias into a swaying shaman with clay-caked skin. But the final effect is neither picturesque nor stilted, what really matters is that Hall has reconciled Sophocles's moral grandeur with Sophocles's surpassing humanity.

● Peter Stanward, the Editor of *The Times*, will be in conversation with Peter Hall at the Olivier on Saturday at 5.30pm

## A marriage of blood and poetry

Ted Hughes is as exact and exacting in his language as a Poet Laureate should be. Interviews make him nervous, because the clear transmission of ideas is difficult via conversation into print and he would choose not to pin them down too much in any case. A shy, friendly man, he talks obligingly and revealingly enough, but it is clear he would prefer to think or write rather than chat.

We meet at the Young Vic where his translation of Lorca's *Blood Wedding* is being directed by Tim Supple. "We don't want to intellectualise in any way," he says, while we are still shaking hands. "It short-circuits the response of the audience." Ideally he would like to "take away their expectations and learn responses, so that they come naked to the play and respond to it on their own terms".

For Hughes, *Blood Wedding*, which opens at the Young Vic tomorrow, is "the ultimate statement of an ultimate event — and notoriously difficult to pull off on stage". Written in 1932 after Lorca had read a newspaper report about a murder committed the day before a wedding, it has the power and inevitability of folk tale. A bride runs away with another man on her wedding day; death follows unavoidably for the two men, and

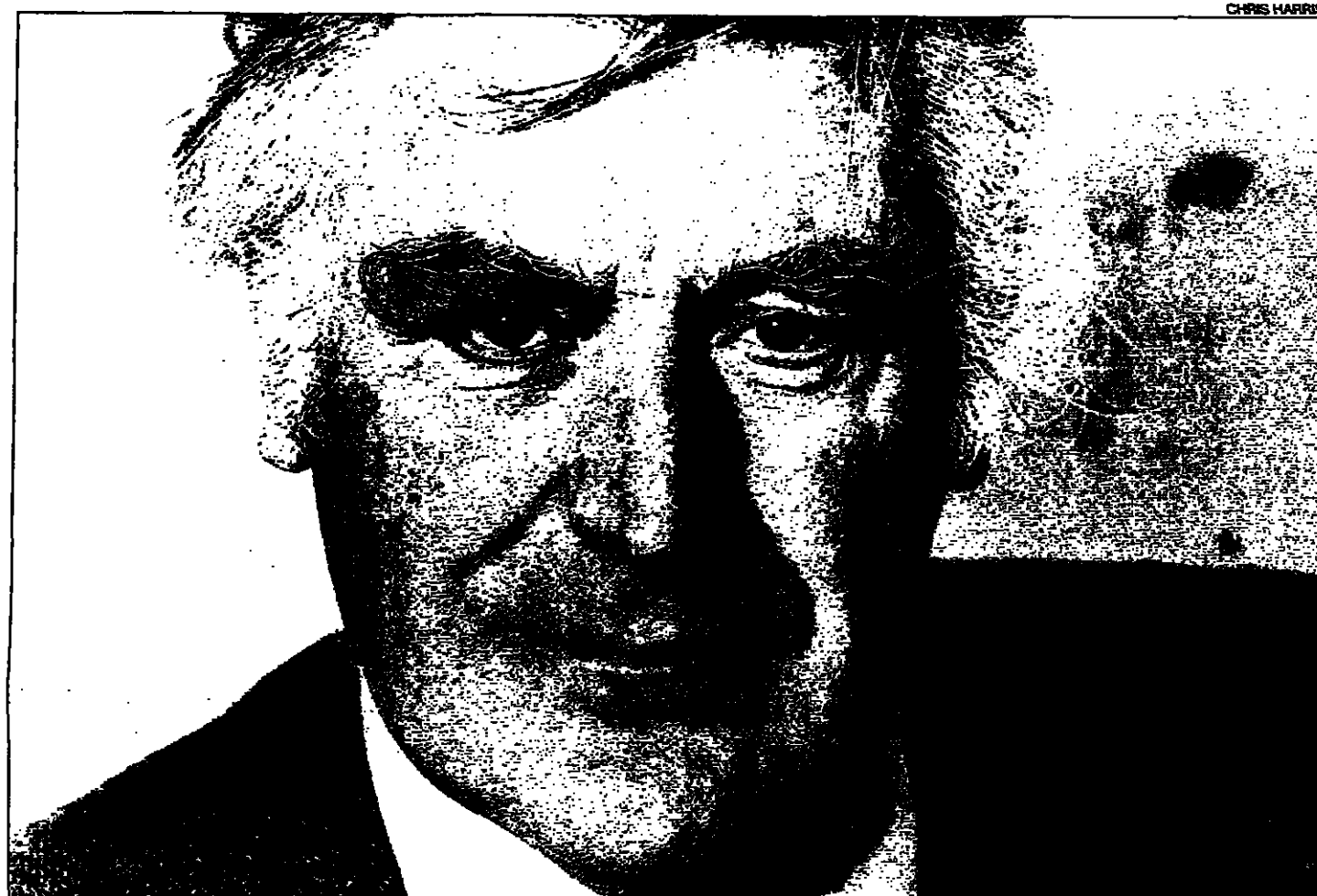
The Poet Laureate  
talks to  
Heather Neill  
about translating  
Lorca's great play

the woman is disgraced. In August 1936, Lorca was himself murdered by Nationalist partisans in Granada at the beginning of the civil war. Hughes has "always been fond of" Lorca's poetry, which he reads in Spanish, although, perhaps surprisingly, he denies any similarity with his own work. It is the very Spanishness which he finds fascinating: "Part African, part Andalusian, the old Berber world, with its ferocious code of behaviour and the nearness to the surface of something explosive. There is a tremendous scream in the writing of *Blood Wedding* — yet an almost Japanese control." The Spanish language, too, has "an explosive, penetrative quality unlike English".

The passion which drives the man and woman to flout strict social convention regardless of the bloody consequences is equated by Hughes with *duende*. This is an elemental energy, a demonic force

identified by Lorca as being present in some art and described in an essay by him. *Play and Theory of the Duende*, which Hughes fervently recommends. According to this, while an angel gives the artist light and a muse form, *duende* is "of blood, of the most ancient culture, of spontaneous creation". Bach has *duende* and Lorca is said to have listened obsessively to Cantata No 140 while he was writing *Blood Wedding*.

The play as a whole, says Hughes, is "very satisfying as a poem, musically taut. The prose dialogue is as tightly interconnected and consistent with the inner crystal of the play as the verse which Lorca chooses for the ritualistic scenes of wedding and death." Hughes set out to render it "very simply, very directly" into English. "I didn't try to replace one poetic idea with another. All Lorca's references are precise. Tinkering would alter the inner tensions of the play." As a result the translation is rhythmic, almost liturgical. Lorca constantly expresses human emotion in terms of natural phenomena: flowers, fire, snow. These are described by Hughes as "a ritualised engagement with the natural world". Ritualised but not divorced from reality. "There is a solid, rock-hard centre, a deep elemental reality. There is no sense



Ted Hughes — *Blood Wedding* is "the ultimate statement of an ultimate event — and notoriously difficult to pull off on stage"

that he was inventing a plot to make it work dramatically. There is a dead certainty that it actually happens. Love and death — that is Lorca's secret — they are two faces of one god. The first lines in *Blood Wedding* anticipate the whole."

The bridegroom's mother expresses her fear and hatred of knives and all weapons as her son leaves for his work in the vineyard, with a knife in his hand. "The play proceeds to fulfil these lines until the knife is almost apotheosised at the end. It is a hidden character beneath the action."

Hughes says that *Blood Wedding* may be beautiful as a poem, but "director and actors have to find a wavelength in which this primitive event may be released".

For his part, he prefers to see the script not as expressing final meanings, but as "provisional".

● *Blood Wedding* begins previews at the Young Vic, 66 The Cut, London SE1 071-528 6363, tomorrow and opens on September 27, until November 2.



Leontina Vaduva as Mimì: frail figure with robust tone

## Bohemian rhapsody, part II

MONDAY'S second stage of the Royal Opera's Great Autumn *Bohème* Marathon brought a completely new cast to act out this ever-affecting ritual of love and loss, in a

naturally flowing, well-balanced performance led by Jan Latham-Koenig and a production freshly spruced up by John Copley. As John Higgins suggested on Tuesday, only the lighting lets the side down: Julia Trevelyan Oman's decor is flattered neither by darkness (frequent) nor illumination (frequent).

Leontina Vaduva is as appealing a Mimì as you could

hope to meet: frail of figure but robust of tone, if lacking that extra ounce of warmth to add depth to her athletic, bright sound. She acts the role with great poignancy. Something went wrong with her make-up in the last act, though — face deathly pale, neck healthily pink.

## OPERA

La Bohème  
Covent Garden

Richard Leech is just as easy a naturalistic actor, and his experience in French roles means that he is enviably free at the top of the voice. After a certain huskiness early on, he soared excitingly in a very winning interpretation. The combination of full-throated singing

and a soulfully smouldering demeanour made Jason Howard's Marcello equally winning, and Cynthia Lawrence's robustly sung Musetta (house debut) was a tart with a 24-carat heart.

Not much vocal finesse

RODNEY MILNES

## Missed adventure

AFTER a two-month parade of orchestras and their conductors at the Proms, it was good to be reminded in Tuesday's London Symphony Orchestra concert under Colin Davis that one of the finest such musical partnerships anywhere exists all year round

in London. With typical adventurousness their opening concert of the season included a new work, Colin Matthews's Cello Concerto No 2 — but

alas, it proved an arid, uninspiring score. Written for Mstislav Rostropovich — who, in a fortnight's time, will premiere James MacMillan's Cello Concerto with the same forces — Matthews's Second Concerto is very different to its 1984 predecessor.

The season had got off to a propitious start with Sibelius's early tone poem, *En Saga*. Few conductors understand Sibelius like Davis does, and his account had rugged flexibility, raw power and a sense of mystery to support the composer's evasive explanation of its programme as "the expression of a state of mind". Warm, characterful playing from all the strings made this even more memorable than the fiercely propulsive performance of Beethoven's Seventh Symphony that brought the evening to a blazing end.

This sparser piece gives the solo instrument a more prominent role without making excessively virtuosic demands. At least there is a clear, logical structure to the concerto: the dark brass fanfares and woodwind flutterings of the scherzo are framed by two

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## MUSIC

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# But some societies are more equal than others

Howard Davies on an ambitious assessment of the economic dilemmas of modern life

Available in all good bookshops is the way publishers typically describe the distribution arrangements for hard-to-shift volumes. On days when my pedantic instincts are in the ascendant I find it an irritating phrase. "Good bookshops" defined how? No doubt by the presence of the book in question.

It is tempting to make the same point about *The Good Society*. A society is "good" when it follows Galbraithian principles which, in turn, are the demonstrated qualities of the good society.

This is, I acknowledge, slightly unfair. Galbraith has tried to flesh out his definition. He has done so, however, in a style whose *de haut en bas* characteristics the word "arch" does not even begin to convey. The text is dotted with phrases like "of

this there will be later mention" or "the matter here urged is" which read like translations from High German, and is punctuated with trenchant summaries of the story so far. "This, the good and affluent society and polity can now allow."

A book so replete with conclusions and recommendations should not be judged on its style, though it is worth making the point that the good book does not repel its

readers: this, the profit-seeking publisher cannot allow.

But wait. It is as easy, and as fruitless, for the reviewer to lock himself into a tone of hostile cynicism as it was for J. K. to adopt his particular biblical, portentous style. So be gone, taste, and to content let us pass. The good review that way surely turns.

Galbraith seeks, heroically, to define the good society, not just in general but also in relation to the particulars of policies pursued by Western democracies. I say "Western democracies" but this is a book whose centre of gravity lies halfway between Boston and Washington DC — somewhere on the New Jersey Turnpike, I think. Because in the midst of his timeless observations come some very



Galbraith: portentous

particular thoughts on the gubernatorial politics of the Garden State.

The early chapters on "the social foundation" or "the good economy" may serve

historians two centuries hence as a guide to late 20th-century patrician liberal thought. Indeed, Galbraith makes some firm and sensible points in his sections on the deficit, the good economy and "the decisive role of education".

But the test of any guidebook is its ability to lead the tourist through difficult territory. How well does *The Good Society* score against that criterion?

Take the fraught question of inequality. What should we think about the recent tendency towards a more unequal distribution of income in the United States and the United Kingdom in particular? Galbraith is aware of the trend, of course. His solution is that "the good society seeks, where possible, to reverse the decline

in trade union power". Well, maybe. But he points out that "for many workers, however, organisation is not now a practical solution". So we are left in suspense.

Then consider downsizing. Galbraith's view is clear: he is against it. But he is honest enough to acknowledge that some of the causes of the underlying problem lie in the downsizers themselves — in what he usefully dubs "non-functional proliferation" of employment.

So how does the good society respond? Well, it makes sure that there is no non-functional proliferation in the first place. It stands to reason, as William would say, "There is undoubtedly social decency in intelligent action

that obviates the need for recurrent and painful downsizing of unneeded staff."

Lastly, consider his views on the United States in the post-communist world. Here he is on firm ground. The United States has a unique hold on the principles of a good society and should spread the word, so "dispatch of the requisite police cum military personnel must be a general and accepted obligation". Further, the assumption that the United States "must not risk the political consequences at home of incurring any casualties abroad — must especially be revised".

The message is clear: accept the good society, or else. So rush, rush to your nearest good bookshop.

Howard Davies is Deputy Governor of the Bank of England.

## Quest for vice and vision

IT IS A rare experience to glance at the publisher's hype on a book sleeve and agree with its claims for the author — unless you are the author, of course. But when Flamingo describe J. G. Ballard as being "at the forefront of modern British fiction writing for over three decades", whatever your literary taste, this is an uncontested fact. It is also a triumph for the queasy beauty of Ballard's unnerving vision of worlds gone wrong.

In fact, it must be rather odd to get to the ripe old age of 66, have David Cronenberg film your early novel *Crash* with its very contemporary fusion of sex and technology — while all about you the youngsters are busily adapting Jane Austen for the big screen.

Although no one in *Cocaine Nights* wears a bonnet or bustle to snort the white powder while exploring the deformity of English manners, it is in some ways a book about the English. Set in the fictional Spanish coastal resort of Estrella de Mar — a kind of upmarket Marbella — Ballard's retired English expats watch satellite television with the sound turned down. When they are not slumped in a gin haze within the chemically cooled interiors of their dream homes, they swim and play tennis at the resort's classy "Club Nautico".

Deborah Levy

COCAINE NIGHTS

By J. G. Ballard

Flamingo, £16.99

ISBN 0 00 224135 8

THIS LIFESTYLE of endless leisure is shattered when five people die in a house fire during a debauched party. Frank Prentice, manager of Club Nautico, is arrested for murder and insists on pleading guilty. His brother, Charles, a travel writer who spends his time on aeroplanes "watching films as blurred as our hopes of finding somewhere new", arrives on the scene. Charles insists that in order to comprehend his brother's refusal of innocence, he will have first to understand the hedonistic world of Estrella de Mar, with its drug trade, weird sex games and apparently motiveless crime.

Thus we have been set up for a thriller, of sorts, except Ballard (as ever, a cool prose master of uneasy erotic atmospheres) is not interested in good versus evil, or in meeting out "justice". The titles of his chapters tell us this: "The Psychopath as Saint", "A Quest for New Vices", inviting the reader to enjoy unpacking the minds of attractively sinister citizens and the dead culture they inhabit.

Among those who might finally enlighten Charles are Sanger, the melancholy psychiatrist whose hands tend to wander over his young female junkie patients, and the corrupt property tycoon, Elizabeth Shand, surrounded by boy bouncers in mini swimming trunks. It is Bobby Crawford, however, Club Nautico's tennis coach, who emerges as the mouthpiece for Ballard's contention that Leisure is the Future.

WITH HIS "ice white teeth", messiah-like status and military past, Crawford understands that in a Future of Boredom, unpredictable acts of violence can force some kind of social cohesion on a "mentally embalmed" community. *Cocaine Nights*, with its seamlessly plotted narrative and heightened naturalism shot with abrupt poetry, offers us a chilling version of the Good Life. As Charles becomes increasingly drawn into the idyllic community of Estrella de Mar, he comes to realise that it is often the psychopath who has the best insights into why we have failed to build a meaningful world for ourselves.

Deborah Levy's new novel *Billy and Girl* will be published by Bloomsbury in November.

### SATURDAY

Marcel Berlins on Inspector Morse's latest adventure

Gill Hornby discovers what happened after Emma ended

Peter Riddell reveals Nigel Lawson's slimming secrets

Plus paperbacks and novels in brief

## Turning all things back to unity

Keith Thomas on an ecumenical challenge to orthodoxy

The Reformation is normally regarded as one of the great turning points in history. It irrevocably shattered the unity of medieval Christendom and it brought into being that fateful polarity of Roman Catholic and Protestant which would dominate the subsequent history of Christianity.

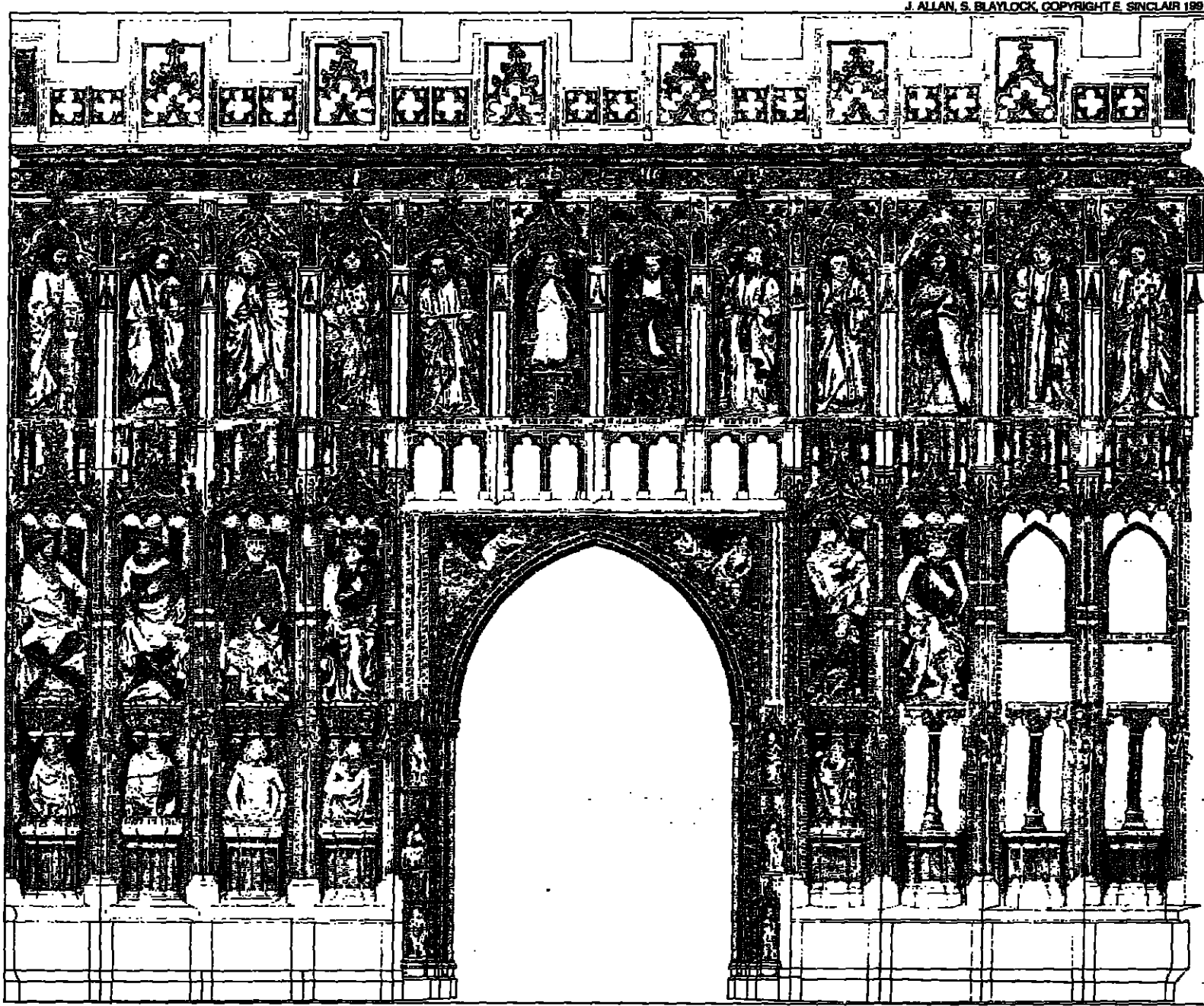
Many historians have hailed the event as a magnificent act of liberation which emancipated the individual conscience and opened up the path to freedom, reason and toleration. Others have lamented it as a doleful schism which eroded the Church's authority and prepared the way for the secular materialism of the contemporary world. But whether applauding the Reformation as a blow for enlightenment or deploring it as the beginning of modern paganism, they have usually agreed that Roman Catholics and Protestants came to hold sharply opposed views of God and the world.

The two groups did not only differ in their attitude to the

authority of the Pope. They also disagreed about the proper relationship of the clergy to the laity and about the way in which God should be worshipped. The celibate priest who absolved penitents and was uniquely qualified to perform the miracle of the Mass had a very different role from that of the married clergyman who preached sermons and conducted Holy Communion as a commemorative rite.

Generations of Protestants recoiled from a religion which involved services in Latin, plaster images of the Virgin and Saints and healing miracles at Lourdes. Today the divided legacy of the Reformation is nowhere more visible than in church architecture and ornament. To observe first the Baroque theatricality of a Jesuit church in Rome and then the puritanical simplicity of a Quaker meeting house is to doubt whether the Society of Jesus and the Society of Friends really practise the same religion.

Yet now there comes a lively book on the Reformation



The exuberance of pre-Reformation art: a reconstruction of the West Front of Exeter Cathedral as it might have appeared in the 15th century

which challenges these traditional verities about its permanently divisive effects. The authors, Derek Wilson and Felipe Fernández-Armesto (fresh from his enthralling *Millennium*), describe themselves as, respectively, "an Evangelical Protestant of charismatic sympathies sparingly indulged" and "a Roman Catholic of Tridentine temptations willfully resisted". Their collaboration is in itself an ecumenical act, designed to support their thesis that modern Roman Catholics and Protestants are not mutually opposed antagonists, but fellow-Christians who have in the late 20th century drawn ever closer together.

Their argument is threefold. First, they maintain that there was nothing particularly new about the 16th-century Reformation. Ever since Christianity began, there had been reformers seeking to return

the Church to its apostolic simplicity. "Medieval Europe was just as rich as modern America in prophets, visionaries and gurus offering sure-fire guides to Heaven." The medieval Church was never united — witness the existence of Eastern orthodoxy — and it embraced an extraordinary diversity of monastic orders, mystics and local cults. The Reformation was just another phase in the long history of attempts at spiritual renewal.

Secondly, the Reformation was a common project for Roman Catholics and Protestants alike. Both sides sought to intensify the faith of individuals and to evangelise ignorant villagers at home and pagans overseas. Personal austerity, Bible study and lay involvement were not the monopoly of Protestants; and Janesmen were as puritanical as any so-called "Puritans". Thirdly, the "quiet revolu-

REFORMATION Christianity and The World 1500-2000

By Felipe Fernández-Armesto and Derek Wilson

Bantam, £20

ISBN 0 593 02743

tion" of the later 20th century has gone a long way towards obliterating the differences which the Reformation created. In the 30 years since Vatican II, the two sides have drawn closer together. Many Protestant churches place more emphasis on the Eucharist than on preaching, while most Roman Catholics have abandoned Latin for the vernacular. Thanks to the charismatic movement, claims to healing miracles are no longer a Roman Catholic monopoly, if they ever were. Protestants

and Roman Catholics sing each other's hymns and are equally uninterested in for ignorant of the doctrinal differences which once divided them. A modern Roman Catholic church, like St Jeanne d'Arc in Rouen, could easily be mistaken for an Anglican or Lutheran building.

This is a fresh and original interpretation of what has happened to Christianity over the past 500 years. It is in many ways a convincing one, though, in their pursuit of Christian unity today, the authors surely understate the differences which divided Roman Catholicism from Protestantism in the past. Despite some wobbles when they get to the 17th century, they march through a long period of history with a confidence that is impressive.

As for the position today, the authors assert wisely that secularism is now "on the

defensive" and that we are living in a period of spiritual renewal. This may be true of the Islamic world, and of Christianity in Africa, but the empty churches and secular culture of Europe make one doubt whether it is true in the lands where the Reformation occurred. No wonder that Roman Catholics and Protestants now see the desirability of hanging together.

Fernández-Armesto and Wilson do not tell us which parts of their book are by which author. It requires no great critical skill to detect two sharply contrasting styles, one rich, vivid and colourful, the other plain, serviceable and a little dull. Whatever the prospects for ecumenism in worship, it seems that, at the literary level, denominational differences are not so easily eradicated.

## At the dead heart of the family

Marianne Wiggins

IN THIS DARK HOUSE

By Louise Kehoe

Viking, £17

ISBN 0 670 86641 5

Now for all our sakes, let us sit upon the ground and tell sad stories of the death of the Family, that familiar soup that forever stains our ties.

When our leaders speak, as they too often do, of "family values", whose family, exactly, would they have us hold as our ideal as we shamble through a lifelong minefield littered with our kith and kin?

Daily, we're reminded that The Family, as it once was and as it should be, is in trouble, and that the blame falls squarely on (choose one): working mothers, liberality, Bripop, drugs or the sparring of the rod in general. Rubbish. What literature (the Good Book included) has taught us is that families were ever thus — shambolic and convolving; unavoidable, like death. The best ones were (and are) the ones that do not forge a chain made of repeated pain, but the ones that spawn creatures capable of grace, of love and of forgiveness.

How or why this miracle takes place is the very wonder of our flawed existence, and we need to hear as many

stories of it as we can. How one forgives one's family for the pain that it has wreaked may be, in fact, the best and most enlightening story any of us can be told. Any writer with the gift to tell it well should be celebrated loud and long, and any book that helps us to learn how to perform such an act of grace should become an instant classic. Such is the writer Louise Kehoe and her family memoir, *In This Dark House*. Born and raised in England but now living in the United States, Kehoe is the daughter of the architectural genius Berthold Lubetkin, best remembered by most people as the creator of the gorilla and penguin houses at London Zoo. But by fellow architects, he is immortal as the founder of Tecton, an architectural

practice which became the greatest protagonist of prewar Modernism in Britain. The fire hazard of being born into familial proximity to such genius, Kehoe writes, was to have been burnt by that all-consuming brilliance. "We grew up," she writes of her and her siblings' early years, "in permanent contention with one another over a meagre and fickle supply of paternal affection."

But instead of feeling sorry for herself and the other victims of her father's emotional brutality, when Kehoe is given a picture of her father as a boy in his native Russia, she sets out to uncover how the gentle child became the stormy man. Along the way she unearths a complicated history of family myth-making and deception. Often told artlessly (her style is that of a natural), Kehoe's journey into her family's truth is a page-turning thriller. At once both spellbinding and spine-tingling, *In This Dark House* never fails to astonish. It is impossible to overpraise this gem of a book and its brave and compassionate author.



Louise Kehoe (left) with her father and brother, Robby

هكذا من الأصل



Ian McIntyre tunes into the colourful history of a British institution that Lord Reith once called a waste of a precious wavelength

Humphrey Carpenter does for British culture what Aleksei Stakhanov did for Soviet coalmining. He was the founder of a band called Vile Bodies which became resident at the Ritz. He presents radio programmes like *In Tune and Night Waves*. He plays the tuba, and he directs the Cheltenham Festival of Literature. He writes children's books and biographies — sometimes more than one at a time.

Recently, he has been examining two very different national institutions — lifting Robert Runcie's archiepiscopal skirts with one hand, snatching at the seven veils of the Third Programme and Radio 3 with the other. Not all has been revealed.

This is partly Carpenter's fault, partly the BBC's. Weidenfeld's publicity material says he had unlimited access to BBC archives; but that requires elaboration. The Writers' Archives Centre at Caversham, which is open to outside researchers, contains papers only up to the mid-1970s. Files from then on are retained in the BBC's Records and Programme Information Centre, which, as Carpenter economically

## Loud and clear in Finland, at least

THE ENVY OF THE WORLD  
Fifty Years Of The BBC  
Third Programme and  
Radio 3  
By Humphrey Carpenter  
Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £25  
ISBN 0 297 81720 5

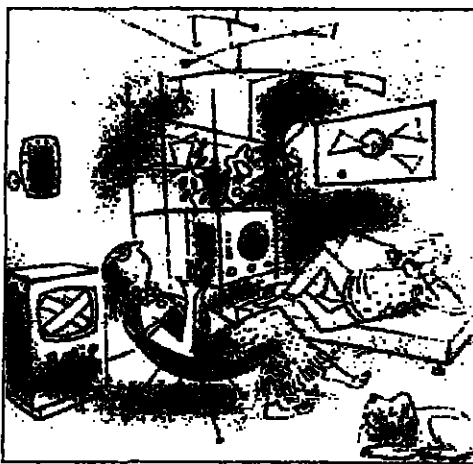
informs us, "is not open to users outside the BBC".

Although there is a cryptic acknowledgement to someone who "kindly made it easy to investigate more recent papers", Carpenter in effect has been denied access to the files covering the last 20 years. For that period he has had to rely on press clippings, interviews with interested parties, and gossip — the raw materials not of the historian but of the journalist. Lord Runcie, in his generous and poignant postscript to Carpenter's biography, makes a fair point about his heavy reliance on the

tape recorder: "Burling into it for background, I find it reproduced for substance."

Carpenter chronicles the early years of the Third with a wealth of colourful anecdote. There was severe interference from a station in Latvia. There were reports that the programme could not be heard in Bloomsbury, although Sibyllus was getting it loud and clear in Finland. During the Arctic winter of 1947, it came off the air entirely — to the indignation of Mrs Lily Thicknesse of Surrey: "Could not some of the music hall programmes have been cancelled instead of the Third Programme?", she wrote. "Or must the lower orders alone be considered?"

The lower orders, as it happens, were very much in William Haley's mind when he set up the



A "highbrow" Third Programme family, parodied in the *Daily Sketch* in 1956.

Third Programme 50 years ago, but those early days were not easy. Taking an important live relay from France was still a gamble: "You are quite likely to get hooked up to the wrong opera house." And

almost from the start, there was a sense of beleaguement. Harman Grisewood, the second Controller, was philosophical. "It was what I'd expected," he told Carpenter. "We'd all been brought up by Reith to think that working men should appreciate Beethoven and that kind of thing, but I knew it was a lot of balls."

Reith himself thought the whole idea of the Third was a waste of a precious wavelength. But Reith, like so many of the network's critics, past and present, didn't actually listen to it. If he had, he would have heard Fred Hoyle's talks on the nature of the universe. The demand for scripts was so large that when Blackwell's put them out in book form, the first printing of 10,000 sold out in a week. It was

also on the Third that Michael Ventris announced he had deciphered the Linear B tablets from Knossos.

Drama did not initially make a strong impact. Leslie Stokes, the network's first presentation and publicity assistant, told Tyrone Guthrie (that most BBC drama producers were "fit only for producing on Bognor Pier"). Later, the Third played a part in the early careers of Beckett and Stoppard, though Carpenter observes that in each case it failed to pick up the crucial play which made the writer's reputation.

Carpenter owes his title *The Envy Of The World*, to Peter Laslett, a prominent defender of the network in the 1950s. Admired and copied across Western Europe, it had a rougher ride within the BBC. Haley apart, the only Director-General who showed more than a passing interest was Charles Curran, who had produced for it in the late 1940s. At the time of the Broad-

casting in *The Seventies* controversy over the proposed reshaping of radio, Ian Trethowan, the new Managing Director of Radio, drafted a riposte to the Campaign for Better Broadcasting which spoke of "a private playground for elitists in cerebral masturbation".

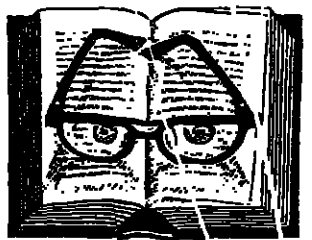
Carpenter writes that the BBC has never really faced up to the fact that if a network like Radio 3 is to do its job properly, it will, by definition, have only a very small audience. That is incontestable. He also rightly insists that in cultural broadcasting, as in all other areas of human activity, there has never been a golden age.

Not everyone has abandoned hope of a return to the old order. John Spurling, a 1960s Third Programme announcer, sketched for Carpenter his "millennial dream" for a restored Third — "tough, experimental, elitist, scholarly, argumentative, unmissable."

Ah, yes. "But that was in another country; and besides, the wench is dead."

The author was Controller, Radio 3, 1978-87.

## Making a lesser splash



BIBLIOMANE

DR JOHNSON recognised the part that book-collectors can play in advancing scholarship, saying that every man should collect editions of one book systematically "and present it to a public library".

Mary Hyde-Lady Eccles, is the world's foremost Johnson collector, and her munificence made possible the Hyde edition of *The Letters of Samuel Johnson*. Adding 52 letters to the canon, this is one of Oxford's most prestigious titles of the decade, and this year it has become the great bargain too — available, for the lucky ones, at as little as £80 for the five volumes.

But in an act of *officieux*, the editor, Bruce Redford, has omitted the letter numbers used in Oxford editions for a century. This renders useless references by number only in many books, including, often, the standard edition of Boswell's *Life of Johnson* (Oxford, six vols, 1934, rep. 1971).

In his 1952 edition of the letters, R.W. Chapman had scrupulously kept G.Birkbeck Hill's numbering from 60 years before, while intercalating nearly 500 new letters. Redford fails to supersede his edition: one must have both.

INCIDENTALLY, if you are lucky enough to set Chapman's book of essays written during his war service, *The Portrait of a Scholar* (Oxford, 1920), buy it, if only for a single marvellous sentence about his choice of what antiques to collect: "One cannot easily have too many spoons."

SINCE the Johnson, Redford has moved on, and next month Yale will publish his short study of *Venice and the Grand Tour* (E20). He argues that the peripatetic finishing school for boys was thought an ambiguous blessing, for tourists came back with some terrible foreign habits, and perhaps diseases. Yet, as another proud maritime state, Venice instilled a proper respect for British liberties.

Being mainly about the 18th century, this is a happy companion to John Penble's *Venice Rediscovered* (Oxford), which is mainly about the 19th century. Penble too is concerned with how Venice affected intellectual developments elsewhere. For instance, after Napoleon had conquered the great trading republic, 296 rooms of archives were opened, and historians turned for the first time to letters and diplomatic reports to see behind the "entrusted truth" of previous histories.

Despite all the books about Venice, Penble can still surprise — did you know that the city was bombed in the First World War? — and I managed to read his book in Venice itself without dropping it in a canal.

JIM MCCUE



Portrait of Renaissance acquisitiveness: *The Money Lenders* by Quentin Massys (circa 1466-1530)

NOAM CHOMSKY is famous for his contributions to the infant science of linguistics; he is also famous for his denunciations of America, its government, its culture, its foreign policy and its allies. The two Chomskys are quite unrelated. The first writes clearly and eloquently, with a scrupulous respect for the principles of scientific discourse.

The second writes a seething and hectic prose, from which little of substance can be gleaned apart from the self-intoxicated anger of the writer, and which is marked by an utterly unscrupulous attitude to all arguments and opinions other than Chomsky's own. Both Chomskys appear in *Powers and Prospects* (Pluto Press, £40, ISBN 0 7453 1107 9) which begins with a lucid overview of Chomskian linguistics and cognitive science.

According to Chomsky, the surface order of a sentence derives from a "deep structure". The apparent grammar should be distinguished from the underlying syntax, contained in the "transformational rules" which generate sentences from structures that are common to all human brains. These structures are the linguistic "universals", stored in the human brain by a long process of evolution.

Stated thus crudely, the theory seems more like an ambitious programme for a future science than the outline of a present one. But the work of Chomsky and his followers has made the picture more precise, and the belated discovery that already produced transformational grammars — albeit for artificial languages — has given a renewed impetus to Chomskian linguistics.

Chomsky, who long ago ceased to be a cautious thinker, has not lost it. Free-

## Rash thinker who is in two minds

expertise in linguistics gives him the right to settle matters by ex cathedra decree. Nevertheless, it is clear that were he to devote his intellectual powers to the philosophy of language and mind, he would have much to say.

Unfortunately Chomsky no longer has time for such pursuits. He is much exercised by the moral responsibility of the intellectual, in a world where power is in the wrong hands. And the responsibility of the intellectual, he informs us, is to tell the truth, especially the unpleasant truth about the society which produced him. The fact that Chomsky has not, in the past, told the truth about communism is well enough known, though not to Chomsky. Still, this does not disqualify him as a critic of Western civilisation, and there is no doubt that his intemperate diatribes against the prevailing political order are received with rapturous applause wherever student radicals enjoy the benefits of that civilisation — including the benefit, unknown in the regimes which student radicals tend to support, of listening to intemperate diatribes against the prevailing political order.

The vision offered in the speciously part of *Powers and Prospects*, and in the

Pluto Press, £35, ISBN 0 7453 1138 5), is more or less indistinguishable from that espoused by the 19th-century anarchists and their Bolshevik disciples. According to Chomsky, we must work for a world without power and domination, in which nobody is oppressed by anybody else, and in which liberty, equality and fraternity are the ruling principles. But to achieve this result we need to oppress the oppressors — and this means using the power of the State to break the capitalists, the ruling elites, the multinationals, the holders of property. To demolish power, therefore, we must first increase it, by transferring power from private hands to the centralised bureaucracy. This bureaucracy, being controlled by Chomsky and his fans, will use power for the public good.

IT IS just possible that Chomsky has had time to study the invariable result of this way of thinking, whether in Russia, China, Vietnam, Cambodia, or modern Africa. But his criticisms of actual utopian experiments are muted at best, and seem to be included in order to prove how fair-minded Chomsky is. It requires courage, Chomsky constantly implies, to expose the lies and subterfuges of capitalist power. For, as everyone knows, the media and the intellectual establishment in America are devoted to a huge cover-up operation, designed to conceal the crimes of America and its allies.

The issue that Chomsky raises — whether crimes committed by friendly powers are to be exposed as vigorously as crimes committed by foes — is too important to be discussed in this adolescent way. Even if you can get through these self-righteous speeches without constant recourse to the vomitatory, you will not be the

## Leader lost

When John Smith died just two years ago memories were revived of another Labour leader robbed by fate of the chance to rule. Hugh Gaiskell stands in the front rank of the finest Prime Ministers Britain never had, but he is scarcely known now to anyone under 40.

When he died in 1963 he left Labour poised for government after 12 years of painful opposition during which he had fought relentlessly to modernise his party.

Brian Brivati succeeds in capturing the contradictory qualities of the Wykehamist who won the loyalty of Durham's miners, the rationalist damned as a "dedicated calculating machine" who was still capable of rousing conference rhetoric and the ethical collectivist who found comfort in the arms of a high Tory hostess.

Brivati characterises the conflict between the two sides of Gaiskell's personality as a struggle for supremacy between two Oxford influences, the Epicurean don Maurice Bowra and his undergraduate contemporary, the earnest socialist Evan Durbin; the tension Brivati delicately helps explain how Gaiskell could inspire the devoted loyalty of Labour's most talented post-war generation.

Gaiskell was accused, like Tony Blair, of running the people's party from his North London dinner table; but unlike Blair, although he operated from an elite base, he enjoyed a close relationship with every part of the Labour movement. From his constituents in Leeds South to trade union leaders such as Arthur Deakin and Sam Watson and the pupils he taught as a WEA

the manner of the late John Smith. Nevertheless, that feeling across class was not reflected in cordiality across Labour's factional barriers. From provoking Bevan's resignation in 1951 over defence expenditure to his inspirational cry to "fight, fight and fight again" against his party's unilateralists, Gaiskell succeeded in keeping Labour in Britain's political mainstream by facing down his party's Left.

A child of empire, Gaiskell always believed Britain should play a world role and it

Michael Gove

HUGH GAISKELL  
By Brian Brivati  
Richard Cohen, £25  
ISBN 1 86066 073 8

was that conviction as well as a desire to unite his party against pro-European Macmillan that inspired him to invoke "a thousand years of history" in his 1962 conference speech to turn Labour against Common Market membership. As the modern Labour Party grapples with the difficulties of defining a progressive agenda, it might do well to consider the courage of Gaiskell in recognising that it was in Britain's history, not foreign futures, that real inspiration lay.

Brian Brivati's book, although not as respectful as Philip Williams's 1979 biography, is sympathetic and, at times, very attractively written. The occasional inelegance and inaccuracy are more than made up for by Brivati's energy and skill in reacquainting us with the man he calls

ed in magnificence and ostentation, although I feel she is a little harsh about the motives of men like Federico da Montefeltro, in whom a genuine love of the new book-learning may have co-existed with a love of the sumptuous. And one must remember that a taste for rich jewels, say, was no novelty. Already, in the 12th century, Abbot Suger had purged over his accumulated gems (admittedly to adorn the church of St Denis), acquired from the collections of English kings.

Notably to be saluted in Professor Jardine's survey is its impressive range. She not only achieves a first-rate balance between southern and northern Europe, rightly allotting full space to the North, but she gives most welcome attention to an often neglected geographical area, that of the Ottoman Empire. Once treated in conventional history as simply a hostile fact of life, it is here shown to be of great commercial relevance, and to have had its own artistic momentum. Both text and illustrations skilfully and vividly bring home to the reader the fact that Istanbul too enjoyed a renaissance.

The book's jacket deserves a final word. Effectively utilising a portrait by the gifted Netherlandish painter, Gossaert, it provides a lasting image of the Renaissance merchant, there engaged in writing but with head raised, subjecting the spectator to cold scrutiny (no chance of a loan, seems the message). This memorabilia but unknown individual stands for a ubiquitous, significant yet seldom celebrated type, something of a hero of the age and one who, after this book, can no longer be called unsung.

Michael Levey

WORLDLY GOODS  
By Lisa Jardine  
Macmillan, £25  
ISBN 0 333 63810 7

His book, subtitled "A New History of the Renaissance", deals with traffic in and acquisition of worldly goods during that period, and it starts with a discussion of the worldly goods depicted by Carlo Crivelli in his famous painting of the Annunciation, in the National Gallery in London.

The choice of picture is excellent, since the composition is packed with fascinating items, not solely of European manufacture, recorded by the artist with fierce precision. Among them is the Virgin's bed, a piece of furniture commonly seen in Renaissance depictions of the subject. Unfortunately, Professor Jardine supposes it to be a table. She also believes that the painter's home town was Ascoli Piceno: Crivelli was a Venetian, as he takes care to stress in this very picture by adding to his signature the adjective "Venetii".

Of course, it would be wrong to imply that a large, bold and complex undertaking, as represented by this book, is invalidated by a small mistake or two about a work of art by someone not a specialist in art history. A mass of material is freshly assembled here, with unusual, absorbing emphases, and with constant, admirable clarity of style. But the book is devoid of notes. It has only a single, all-purpose and slightly off-beat bibliography, unlinked to individual chapters; it is hard for the general reader, intrigued by a reference or eager to check some fact, to know how to pursue the point.

But these details need not trouble the majority of readers, and almost anyone interested in the Renaissance will gain from reading the book. Despite a very different subject-matter, it appears in concept to be a by-product of Simon Schama's brilliantly accomplished and well-documented volume, *The Embarrassment of Riches* (a book to be found in the present one's bibliography). Perhaps it is rather cool of the jacket to announce Professor Jardine's work as a new "History" of the Renaissance, but what we have in Jardine's book is a new and highly rewarding approach to the Renaissance.

It gets away from standard cultural history, as also markedly from standard art history. If occasionally the main emphasis proves blurred, and the author is distracted from her chief concern, much of the book focuses, in lucid detail, on the nature of goods exchanged, how they were obtained, and how valued, with illuminating effect. Supporting the text throughout are apposite illustrations, often of recondite items, from astrolabes to pages from account books. This is the material from which the culture was woven, and it is pertinent to be reminded that in that world a commodity such as pepper might rank as at least as valuable as a painting.

Particularly stimulating, indeed provocative, is the author's discussion of acquisitiveness as manifest-

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GOLF: LEADERSHIP ROLE IN TEAM CONTESTS INCREASINGLY TAKES ON GREATER SIGNIFICANCE

# Captains call shots in battle of wits



Rankin: mind games

BY JOHN HOPKINS  
GOLF CORRESPONDENT

MICKEY WALKER, of the United States, will be in the spotlight no less than their players in the Solheim Cup at St Pierre this weekend. The reasons for this will differ, however. While the 24 members of their teams will hit the shots, Walker and Rankin, the two captains, will call the shots.

Suddenly, captaincy in team events in golf has become as important as playing. This is largely because of European successes at recent Ryder, Walker and Curtis Cups. Tony Jacklin started it in 1983, his first Ryder Cup as captain, when he demonstrated the art of hands-on captaincy to such good effect that a Europe team

not significantly different from that which had been crushed by nine points in 1981 this time lost by only one point.

United States captains, by contrast, have traditionally been less involved than their European counterparts because of the strength of their teams. Their viewpoint was expressed by an American captain of recent memory who said: "I've got 12 of the best players in the world. Who am I to tell them what to do? I shall just toss their names into the air and see how they fall."

Walker, 43, is becoming experienced at the art of captaincy now that she is in charge of a Solheim Cup team for the fourth time. "I know what to expect," Walker said. Rankin, on the other hand, is

captaining a team, any team, for the first time and her diplomacy was tested soon after her arrival at Chepstow when she was asked about apparent excessive partisanship demonstrated by Dottie Pepper in this event two years ago.

"I have had several conversations with Dottie," Rankin, a 51-year-old former professional who now commentates on golf on American television, said. "I put it down to her having the temperament of a redhead, but she is back to blonde now and very charming. I assure you she is the staunchest of competitors, but not rude."

Rankin needs no reminding that the United States do not hold any of the Ryder, Walker or Curtis Cups and again demonstrated her diplomacy

when she said: "The fact that the Europeans hold the three other trophies only attests to the fact that our task is a tough one. I choose not to think of this as pressure on us. There are 13 of us who have a great desire not to lose."

"Captains bring out some material aspects, some nursing aspects and some coaching aspects," Rankin continued. "It also involves mind games with yourself in the middle of the night about pairings. It is fun and very interesting and something I am very happy I did not miss out on in my time in golf. I have not slept well for quite a few nights."

Walker gives the appearance of enjoying uninterrupted sleep. She appears to have an iron fist well contained within a velvet glove and talks of getting to know her players' personalities so well that she knows what newspaper they read and what sort of jam they eat at breakfast. Films of the Europe victory at Dalmahoy four years ago are in the team room and Walker also has other techniques up her sleeve to motivate the Europe team.

She rarely seems flustered or angry and openly admits she has grown into the job. "I am flexible, easygoing but determined and decisive," Walker said of her style of captaincy.

"I listen, but I make my own decisions. Obviously, my team know a thing or two and I learn from them. If they convince me to do something, I will do it but, if I disagree, I will do it my way."

It will be interesting over the course of this match to see which captain prevails.

## The secret of carrying on

How to Survive in Further Education. Radio 4, 8.45pm.

Further education teacher Daphne Glazer has a northerner's sense of humour, sure-footed, non-nonsense and, when other folk are not looking at her, non-sensational. She needed all these qualities when, as she recounted last week, she survived in Nigeria during a bloody civil war and then escaped thanks to, of all things, her skill in teaching German. Tonight she tells how she survived as lecturer in English and general studies at a Hull college of further education. General studies were rooted in the belief (not hers) that non-arts students such as plumbers and fabrication and welding apprentices "inevitably nicknamed fabwelds" needed to be humanised. Surely this need was urgent in the case of the department head who used to discourse, albeit illuminatingly, on Roman drains.

Dangerous Samples. Radio 4, 2.00pm.

John Pilkington's fantasy about Alfred Nobel, begetter of dynamite and peace prize, has found an effective (though scarcely novel) way of dramatising the seeming contradictions in him. On his deathbed, he is transported to the underworld where a welcoming committee proves to be anything but. Jeers greet his protestations that he did not invent war but that, on the contrary, he dreamt of ending it. History still can't decide whether Nobel did more good than harm. Pilkington's play finds a clever way around the dilemma. Robin Soars's disorientated Nobel is a tour de force. Peter Davatie.

## Awesome Davies is everyone's favourite

Andrew Longmore  
on the popular golfer  
aiming to land the  
big gamble with a  
victory for Europe

The week of the Solheim Cup has started promisingly for Laura Davies. Yesterday, in partnership with Lisa Hackney, she won a sweater of her choice off Alison Nicholas and Trish Johnson after a ferociously fought practice round, won by a hole. The previous evening, she took the caddies for a bob or two on the pool table, some reparation at least for the £500,000 losses Davies has owned up to in her autobiography, published this week.

Whether she can tilt the odds in favour of the Europe team is a different matter. Ladbrokes make the United States team, the Solheim Cup holders, the 4-7 favourites, with Europe at 13-8, a tempting price for a punter of Davies's bravado. As if she needed extra excitement in her life as if her golf was not gripping enough. Take yesterday and an innocuous practice round at St Pierre.

Had the United States team turned into the British four-on-the-9th, a straightforward par four, their laughter would have echoed down the Severn. There is only one area of danger, a bunker and a tree on the right side of the fairway. With commendable team spirit, the four followed each other into trouble, like lemmings over a cliff Johnson and Hackney behind the tree. Nicholas virtually unplayable at the edge of the bunker and Davies, with typical extravagance, in deep rough a yard or two further on and further right. A swift hack of those muscular forearms and the ball disappeared into a thicket.

Davies, her famed sense of humour for once deserting her, stalked up the fairway and, for want of something to do, threw a ball or two into the greenside bunker. The first splash out plopped onto the green well short of the hole, the second nearly decapitated Nicholas's caddy. "Sorted that out then," she said to no one in particular. "Can't play bunker shots either."

The next hole paid for the ignominy, though. On the 540-yard par five, against a brisk headwind, Davies



Davies plots the downfall of the United States team in the Solheim Cup during practice yesterday

smote a driver over a giant beech tree — "that's one way of doing it," Nicholas remarked — and then hit a three-wood dead straight, 20 feet short of the pin. The eagle putt missed by a whisker.

"The thing about Laura is not just her length, she hits the ball so high," her caddy and cousin, Matthew Adams, said. "We can aim for targets

most of the other girls cannot contemplate." It sounded like the larger advertisement, but you knew what he meant. On song, Davies plays a course so different from the rest, Adams's yardage charts would satisfy Nick Faldo. "Awesome," as Brandie Burton, the Californian, put it. "She's taken the world by storm this year. But, more

than that, she's such a good friend. I can't say anything bad about her at all." Even the prickly Dottie Pepper (formerly Mochrie) would struggle to find the right insult.

Rarely does a great champion, particularly one with a second-hand Ferrari in the garage and an overwhelming fondness for the good life, command such universal

warmth from friend and foe alike. Greg Norman, fellow occupant of the fast lane and fellow charger on the course, excites as much envy as admiration on the men's tour. The Australian would surely love to have Davies's nerve for the big occasions.

So, doubtless, would many of the United States and Europe team members over

the next few days. "Serious? Christ, yes, of course it's serious," Davies said. "No one wants to lose, but we want to enjoy it, win or lose. I think that's the key. I'm certainly not going to cry if we lose."

Little in Davies's life could be termed serious. Liverpool losing would be serious, or being bowled for nought in one of the impromptu cricket games organised on tour. One of her dogs — Ben or Dudley — eating the new carpet might be a touch irritating. Oh, yes, and journalists can be seriously irritating, particularly when they jump on the bandwagon, take a paragraph from her book and brand her a chronic gambler and spendthrift.

"What annoys me is when people make a big thing of the gambling," she said. "That makes them interested, but winning two majors doesn't."

'She is such a good friend, I can't think of anything bad to say about her'

She has barely raised a mention in the golfing trade press this season, despite winning seven tournaments and £750,000 in prize money.

"To be honest, I couldn't give a monkey's if my picture never appears in the paper again. But I do care when they say something stupid about me," she admitted. "It doesn't fire me up. I just say next time those people want an interview, they can go and get stuffed." From one of the most approachable and eloquent people in sport, that is a rare tantrum, soon calmed.

Mickey Walker, captain of the Europe team, has described Davies as her side's Seve Ballesteros. Davies, 33 next month, will have none of it. "No one person can make that much difference in a team event. All 12 of us have to play well," she said. But, like the Spaniard, Davies is the talisman, the psychological rock of the Europe team, the one player everyone wants on their side. For the record, she is 7-2 to finish top points-scorer for Europe, which just might be worth a bet.

□ Laura Davies — *Natural*, published by Bloomsbury, £16.99.

## Leading Americans immune to Loch Lomond's charms

BY MEL WEBB

THIS year European, with small American connections: one day soon, the whole wide world. The Loch Lomond World Invitational, which starts today, has lofty aspirations, and they extend all over the planet.

Lyle Anderson, the American owner of Loch Lomond Golf Club, has invested millions in his efforts to make his course one of the most beautiful and testing in the world. Unequivocally, he has succeeded. Anderson, who sounds Scottish but isn't (he is of Italian and Norwegian descent) has dug deeply into his admittedly capacious pockets to make the first big tournament to be held on the loch's bony, bony banks a success.

The criteria he laid down for those who would play least heavily on quality. Not a brass farthing would be offered in appearance money, but there would be a big purse (£750,000), the leading 60 players in the world rankings would be invited and there

would be spots for leading senior professionals from both sides of the Atlantic. This was truly going to be a world event.

Except that it is not, quite, not yet. The high-flown title of the event is not yet matched by the strength in depth of the field. Admittedly, Nick Faldo is here, so that puts a feather in Anderson's cap, but for this year the truth is that this is just another PGA European Tour event, albeit tuned up a little by a handful of American tour players.

Only a dozen of the world top 60 are present and just two of the top 20 — Faldo and Colin Montgomerie. On the credit side, only Severiano Ballesteros and Bernhard Langer are missing from last year's Ryder Cup team.

On Sunday, Tim Finchem, the commissioner of the US PGA Tour, and Ken Schofield, executive director of the PGA European Tour, announced the formation of the PGA Tours International Federation, the main purpose of

which would be to establish a mini-series of world championship events in which the best players would appear. Anderson would quite clearly like this tournament to be spoken of in the same breath, and will not be content until it is.

There was a small, strange moment at his press conference yesterday when his ambitions became crystal clear. "I'm happy about the date of the tournament, in that it comes after the other majors have been played," he said. Other majors? It may have been a slip of the tongue, but if it was, it had Freudian overtones.

Montgomerie, who continues his battle with Ian Woosnam for the No 1 spot in the European money-list, said yesterday that he would take even part for the tournament if it were offered him, so testing was the lay-out. If the quality of the course on which a tournament is played is any criterion, this one is heading upwards, ever upwards.

### WORD-WATCHING

Answers from page 41

#### HEMULE

(a) A rueback of the third year. A word of uncertain form. The Book of St Albans has *hemule*. Later writers (whose information seems to be entirely derived from the Book of St Albans) have *hemuse*. An *i* and a long *s* are easily confused in 16th-century writing. "The fawne of a Rowe is called the first year a kiddie, the second a gyrie, the third year an *hemuse*."

#### JHOW

(c) A shrubby tamarisk (*Tamarix indica*), frequent in the marshes of the Indian rivers, and used for basket-making and other purposes. From the Hindi *jhū*. "A low, but in some places thick jhow jungle."

#### HETAERIO

(b) A fruit consisting of a collection of indehiscent carpels, either dry or succulent, upon a common receptacle, as that of the buttercup, strawberry, raspberry, etc. From the Greek *hetairos* an associate. "In the raspberry and bramble we have a kind of hetaerio formed of a number of little drupes, or drupels."

#### JULIENNE

(a) A soup made of various vegetables, especially carrots, chopped and cooked in meat broth. An *eponym* from some forgotten chef *Jules* or *Julien*. "The best part of a pint of julienne is very well for a man who has only one dish besides to devour."

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### FIXTURES

#### CRICKET

British Assurance county championship 10.30, first day of four, 104 overs maximum. DORSET: Dorsetshire v Durham. CHESHIRE: Essex v Gloucestershire. GLOUCESTERSHIRE: Gloucestershire v Kent. NORTHAMPTON: Hampshire v Nottinghamshire. LEICESTERSHIRE: Lancashire v Middlesex. NORTHAMPTON: Northamptonshire v Yorkshire. THE OVAL: Surrey v Worcestershire. HAYES: Sussex v Somerset. EDGBASTON: Warwickshire v Lancashire.

#### FOOTBALL

Kick-off 7.30 unless stated. AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First division: Swindon v Tottenham (2). POINTS LEAGUE: Premier division: Nottingham Forest v Derby (7.45). Bolton v Leeds (7.45). WELSH CUP: First round replays: Keighly v Llanelli; Symondstown v Llanelli. JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First division: Wiltshire v Dorset. FA YOUTH CUP: Preliminary round: Rotherham v Burgess Hill; Southwick v Raynes Park Vale; Lancaster v Barnetley; Wokingham v Bury; Norwich v Chesham; Northfleet v Port Vale; St Albans v Watford. AVON: Preliminary round replays: Worcester v Mansfield; Hastings v Whitstable; Farnley Celtic v Southwick.

#### OTHER SPORT

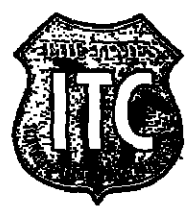
BOXING: World Boxing Organization light-middleweight championship: Ronny Lockett v Steve Foster (Belfast) (in Manchester). EQUESTRIANISM: Blenheim Horse Trials. GOLF: Loch Lomond World Invitational (Glasgow). RUGBY: Premier League: London v Cardiff (7.30); Sheffield v Coventry (7.45). TENNIS: LTA satellite tournament (Bournemouth).

هكذا من الأصل









## CRICKET 37

Will closing shots of the season earn you £10,000?

## SPORT

## GOLF 42

Europe's Solheim Cup chances rely on Walker's running



THURSDAY SEPTEMBER 19 1996

## Leicestershire encouraged by coincidence

By ALAN LEE  
CRICKET CORRESPONDENT

RAYMOND ILLINGWORTH had his feet up in Farsley yesterday, retirement evidently suiting him fine. He still needs little persuasion to talk cricket, however, and he recalled the events of 21 summers ago with clarity and affection. Captaining Leicestershire to win the county championship, said Illingworth, was up there with the proudest moments of his career.

more than 11 points to emulate the achievement of 1975. Surrey, at home to Worcestershire, and Kent, who play at Bristol, can only hope for an improbable collapse in sight of the winning-post.

There are parallels to be drawn between the Leicester generations. Both teams were led by a Yorkshireman, James Whitaker taking the modern Illingworth role, and both had other Yorkshiremen in the background. Chris Balderstone and Jack Birkenshaw were senior professionals in the 1975 team, whereas Birkenshaw is now team manager and has the Keighley-born Phil Robinson as second-team coach.

Both could also be thought unglaucous sides. Certainly, the England selectors believed as much, for the 1975 team suffered no

Test calls and Alan Mullally is the only member of the present staff to be picked either this summer or for a winter tour.

Illingworth recalls with pleasure the transformation at Leicester in the early 1970s. "When I went there from Yorkshire, we started with absolutely nothing," he said. "But, within three years, we were winning things and then for five or six seasons we were the best side in the country."

"In 1975 we not only won the championship and the Benson and Hedges Cup, which was then a unique double, we also beat the Australian touring team. The secret of our side was that we had a number of older players who were very good pros. They brought the younger blokes along so that they learnt the basics of how to behave,

as well as how to play. They were educated in self-discipline, which I think was very important."

Among the young men who made their initial appearances that summer were Paddy Clift, the Zimbabwean who died tragically and poignantly a fortnight ago, and a precocious David Gower. Those in the upper-age bracket included Graeme McKenzie, one of Australia's gentler, wiser exports, and Ken Higgs, one of Lancashire's most explosive.

There was Brian Davison, one of

the most exciting batsmen of his time, and John Steele, one of the most obdurate also, two men who are now international umpires, Balderstone and Barry Doolittle. Balderstone was among the last of the double sportsmen and, on the second evening of the game in which Leicestershire secured the title, he played football for Doncaster Rovers, returning to cricket the following morning to complete a century.

Illingworth's team contained four spin bowlers, who shared 162 championship wickets in 1975. The focus of Whitaker's side is the seam attack of Alan Mullally and David Millar. "I told Mullally the other day that there is no way his attack would have been bowling sides out for 150 on the Grace Road pitches of the 1970s," chuckled Illingworth.

"They were too good." He wishes them well today, though, and offers a gracious tribute.

"All credit to them. They have played enterprising cricket all year, scoring plenty of runs as well as bowling sides out, and Whitaker has got a very good response from them. I'm pleased for him."

Whitaker joined Leicestershire in 1983, when support had diminished and those who did attend bemoaned the loss of the great days under Illingworth. He has played through plenty of disappointments since then, not least his own failure to secure more than one England cap, but to win the championship in his first season as captain would make up for everything.

"We will win the championship and we shall do so in style," he said yesterday. Middlesex, being a team

of pride and pedigree, are unlikely to make it easy for them, but the odds are stacked in the leaders' favour. The weather forecast is poor, suggesting an interrupted four days, and even if they were to lose, either Surrey or Kent must win, probably with full bonus points, to deprive them.

Simmons holds key ..... 40  
Graveney's ambition ..... 40

One final coincidence which Whitaker may care to broadcast during one of the huddles in which his players ritually indulge: the final home game of Leicestershire's 1975 programme was also against Middlesex, and it was won by eight wickets.

## TOP OF TABLE

	P	W	L	D	B	BI	PS
Leics	16	9	1	6	83	57	272
Surrey	16	8	1	7	49	30	288
Kent	16	9	1	6	47	48	257
Essex	16	8	4	4	54	55	249

## Lee's search for manager ends

## Bassett poised to take over at Maine Road

By DAVID MADDOCK

MANCHESTER City will today end their long, and at times painful, search for a manager with the appointment of Dave Bassett. Francis Lee, the chairman, is expected to call a press conference at which Bassett, the manager of Crystal Palace, will be unveiled.

The news will come as a huge relief to the legion of City supporters who have looked on in something approaching sheer horror as their club has reduced the search for a

successor to Alan Ball, sacked four weeks ago, to farcical levels. Lee acted swiftly to end Ball's reign after poor results early in the new season, a season in which City found themselves in the Nationwide League first division. It quickly transpired, however, that the club had no immediate contingency plan in place to appoint a successor.

Lee tried — and failed — to tempt George Graham and Howard Kendall to Maine Road, before settling on

Bassett. Even there, though, there were problems, and it seemed that only talks late into last night resolved the situation.

Ron Noades, the chairman of Crystal Palace, had initially refused permission for City to speak to his manager, which left the club in a desperate position yesterday. Lee knew that his own position was on the line if he failed to appoint a new manager quickly after a humiliating 4-1 defeat at Lincoln City in the Coca-Cola Cup on Tuesday evening.

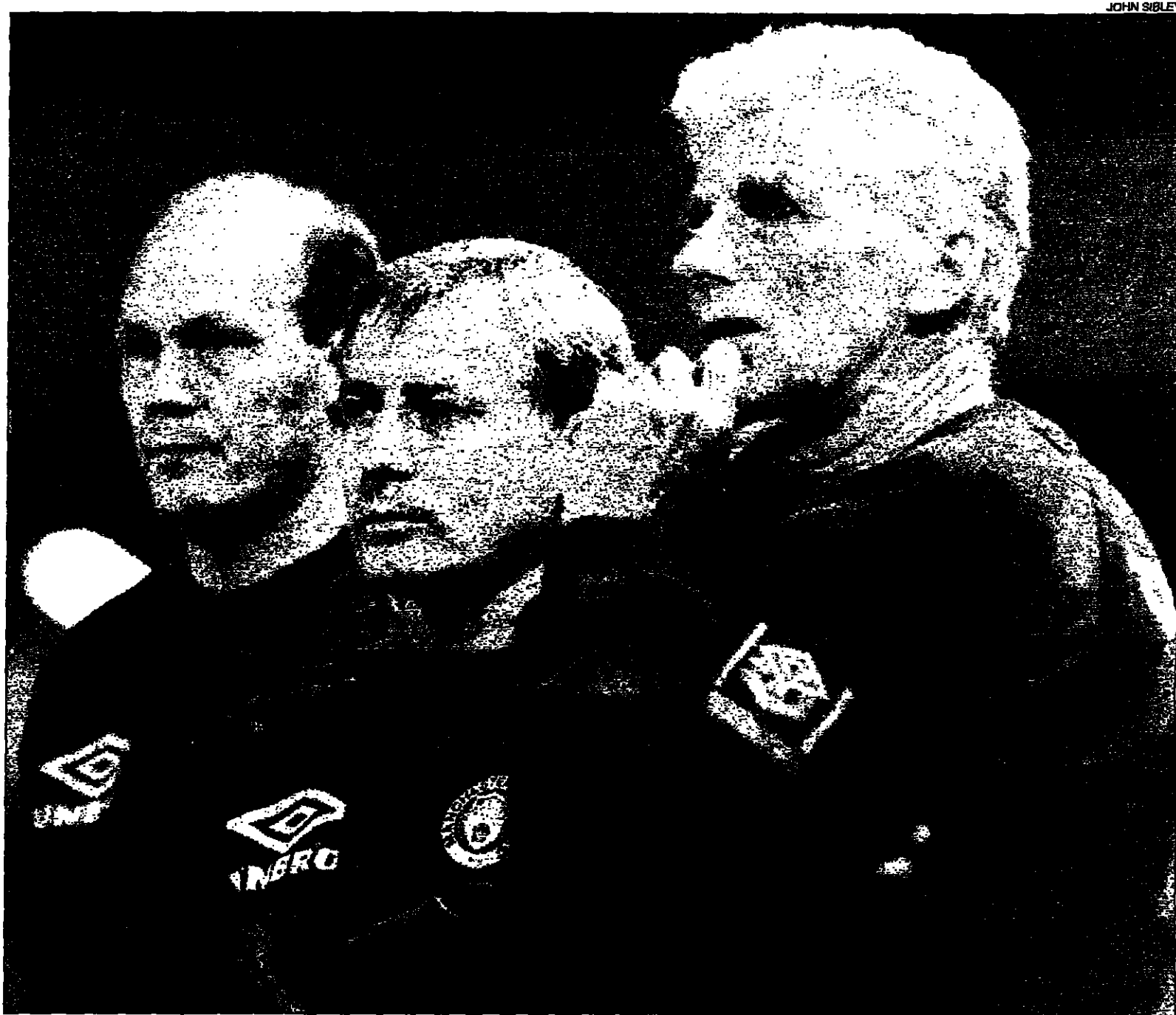
But Bassett himself had a meeting with Noades that stretched late into last evening, and the pair appeared to finally reach an agreement which will allow him to make the journey to Manchester to take up the appointment.

Bassett will become Manchester City's sixth manager in as many years, and Lee admitted that the appointment must this time be the right one. He would, he confessed recently, have to consider his own position as chairman if he failed to deliver a manager this time who will bring the success the club's patient supporters crave.

On the appointment of Ball, he said that a chairman would also stand or fall on the performance of the manager, and just 24 hours before finally resolving his search for a successor, by appointing Bassett, he said: "If my next managers is a failure, then I might have to quit too."

Bassett was initially targeted when Graham first declined the offer, with Lee still furious over the former Arsenal manager's behaviour in announcing that he was interested in the job. Lee felt this was merely to advertise the fact that he was ready to resume his managerial career.

Bassett was genuinely interested in the job, but even then he held reservations about the size of the task he would face on entering Maine Road. At 52, Bassett knows this will



Asa Hartford, centre, the Manchester City caretaker manager, watches grim-faced as his team are humiliated 4-1 at Lincoln on Tuesday

almost certainly be his last job in football, and he wants it to be a successful one.

He is sure to make sweeping changes to his playing staff, with the first task perhaps being the most delicate one. Bassett has yet to be convinced about Gheorghe Kinkladze — the idol of the supporters — and must decide whether he is a bankable asset or the key to City's promotion chances.

There would be no shortage of buyers — Arsenal, Celtic and a host of foreign clubs, including Internazionale, have all expressed an interest. Lee himself has said that he would have to be slung from the rafters of Maine Road before he would allow the Georgian to leave.

He was, however, missing from the side against Lincoln in the Coca-Cola Cup — which immediately led to speculation

that he was left out so as not to be cup-tied for potential purchasers.

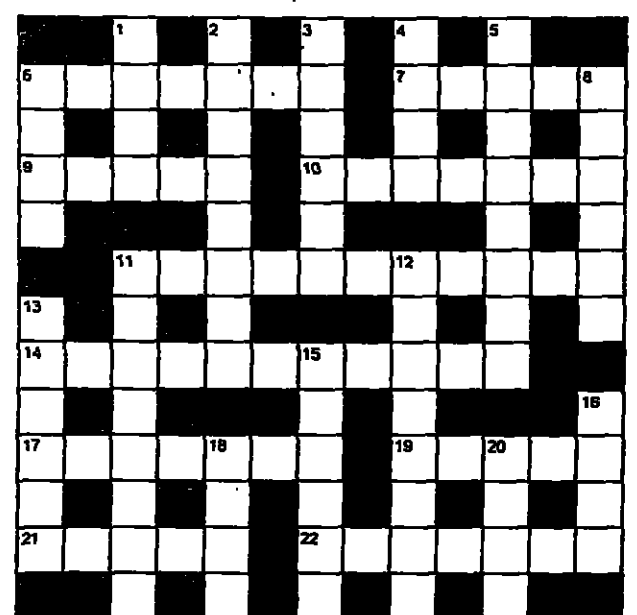
Bassett, it seems, has already influenced one incoming transfer, with Andy Thorn, a former player under his managership at Wimbledon,



Lee: vital appointment

## TIMES TWO CROSSWORD

No 891 in association with  
BRITISH MIDLAND



- ACROSS
- Quantity of film (7)
  - Watch over (5)
  - Sifting device (5)
  - Item of personal property (7)
  - "The best thing since" (6,5)
  - Made an enemy (10); donate gains (anag.) (11)
  - Group of five players (7)
  - Jousting's weapon (5)
  - Do extra well (5)
  - Colour of city half as old as time (4-3)
- DOWN
- Skin opening; look closely (4)
  - Boer-besieged town, relieved 1900 (8)
  - Bring out safely (6)
  - Taj Mahal site (4)
  - Top of our front page (8)
  - Rapid; (tied) tightly (4)
  - Mislead (6)
  - A rehearsed manoeuvre (3,5)
  - A lizard with (myth) deadly glance (8)
  - Motor-car make (6)
  - Scientific journal; character (6)
  - Heavy element; be first (4)
  - Levy; ring (bell) (4)
  - Fiddling Roman emperor (4)

**PRIZES:**  
THE WINNER will receive a return ticket travelling economy class to anywhere on British Midland's domestic or international network.  
THE RUNNER-UP will receive a return ticket to anywhere on British Midland's domestic network. British Midland offers an extensive range of departure and destination points throughout the UK as well as Europe. As the UK's second largest scheduled service airline and Heathrow's second biggest user, it operates a fleet of 35 aircraft on over 1200 flights per week throughout the UK and Europe. All flights are subject to availability.

Post your entry to Times Two Crossword, PO Box 6886, London E2 8SP to arrive by next Monday. The winners' names and solution will appear on Wednesday.

Name/Address .....

## SOLUTION TO NO 890

ACROSS: 1 Fearsome 5 Ball 9 Fighter 10 Otter 11 Mesh 12 Seducer 14 Rumble 16 Carous 19 Horatio 21 Rage 24 Vague 25 Denture 26 Site 27 Defender  
DOWN: 1 File 2 Argue 3 Satchel 4 Morsus 5 Aridite 7 Lark Rise 8 Pond 13 Archives 15 Mr Right 17 Arrange 18 Fondue 20 Tree 22 Guild 23 Tear

## Rowell suffers in war of words

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

THE discordant sounds emerging yesterday from English rugby union's rival factions gave no indication that peace is likely to break out as a result of the most recent behind-the-scenes discussions. The bitterness is increasing, with the Scottish authorities not far behind.

The intervention of the English Professional Rugby Union Clubs (Epruc) on the Scottish scene at the weekend, when it offered to bankroll leading Scottish clubs, has prompted considerable criticism from Freddie McLeod, the Scottish Rugby Union (SRU) president, while remarks by Donald Kerr, the Epruc chairman, have been labelled "irrational and unhelpful" by Rugby Football Union (RFU) representatives.

Some of those close to the power struggle in England believe that the differences between the RFU progres-

sives and the Epruc moderates are wafer-thin. If so, it is time for the two wings of their respective parties to make their views heard, to ward off the chance of an acrimonious split that cannot easily be healed. Several members of Epruc, notably in the second division, admit privately that a breakthrough from the RFU is not the way forward.

The immediate consequence of the mutual mud-slinging is the continued disruption of England squad preparations. Already, two training dates have passed, and the one next Wednesday is now in doubt, to the frustration of Jack Rowell, the England coach, who had hoped to announce a new training squad this week.

Cliff Brittle, the RFU executive committee chairman, has been accused by Kerr of "undermining" the peace process, and as a result, Kerr

refuses to state categorically that international-squad players will be released.

"The RFU gave us certain undertakings and, in return, we agreed to release the players to try and take things forward on an amicable basis," Kerr said. "We hoped for an amicable parting of the

Australia's quest ..... 38

ways on October 11, but it looks like being acrimonious rather than friendly."

His remarks were described as misleading by Brittle and Tony Hall, the RFU secretary. "The RFU are seeking a resolution to this dispute and will continue to do so," they said in a joint statement. "Donald Kerr's reaction is irrational and unhelpful. If Epruc want to resolve their differences with

the RFU they will release their players to play for England at the very least, to show goodwill."

That is as nothing compared with McLeod's blast at Epruc. "What they have suggested is misleading, mischievous and a recipe for consigning Scotland to the wastebin of world rugby," McLeod said.

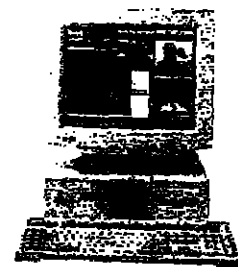
"If it is confrontation people want, then the war begins. I hope that, at the end of the day, there will only be one winner, and that will be the union. I am totally convinced it will be."

Mark Jones, the former Neath No 8 capped 14 times by Wales before joining Hull Rugby League Club, is poised to return to rugby union with Newport. A transfer fee has been agreed with his present club, Warrington.

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## MORSE

Don't Believe the Hype.



Some computer companies talk about the Internet as though they invented it. The fact is, most have cobbled together a loose strategy in the last year or so.

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